United Nations

# Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 1998

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**Official Records**
**Fifty-third session**
**Supplement No. 23 (A/53/23)**

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# Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

United Nations • New York, 1999

*Note*

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

The present version of the report of the Special Committee is a consolidation of the following documents as they appeared in provisional form: A/53/23 (Part I) of 24 September 1998; A/53/23 (Part II) of 17 September 1998; A/53/23 (Part III) of 17 August 1998; A/53/23 (Part IV) of 17 September 1998; A/53/23 (Part V) of 17 August 1998; A/53/23 (Part VI) of 17 September 1998; A/53/23 (Part VII) of 17 August 1998; A/53/23 (Part VIII) of 27 August 1998 and A/53/23 (Part IX) of 17 August 1998.

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## Letter of transmittal

8 September 1998

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith to the General Assembly the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/78 of 10 December 1997. The report covers the work of the Special Committee during 1998.

(*Signed*) Bruno **Rodríguez Parrilla**
Acting Chairman of the Special Committee
on the Situation with regard to the
Implementation of the Declaration on the
Granting of Independence to Colonial
Countries and Peoples

His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York

# Chapter I
# Establishment, organization and activities of the Special Committee

## A. Establishment of the Special Committee

1. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was established by the General Assembly pursuant to its resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961. The Special Committee was requested to examine the application of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and to make suggestions and recommendations on the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration.

2. At its seventeenth session, after considering the report of the Special Committee,[1] the General Assembly adopted resolution 1810 (XVII) of 17 December 1962, by which it enlarged the Special Committee with the addition of seven new members. It invited the Special Committee "to continue to seek the most suitable ways and means for the speedy and total application of the Declaration to all Territories which have not yet attained independence".

3. At the same session, by its resolution 1805 (XVII) of 14 December 1962 on the question of South West Africa, the General Assembly requested the Special Committee to discharge, *mutatis mutandis*, the tasks assigned to the Special Committee for South West Africa by resolution 1702 (XVI) of 19 December 1961. By its resolution 1806 (XVII) of 14 December 1962, the Assembly decided to dissolve the Special Committee for South West Africa.

4. At its eighteenth session, by resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, the General Assembly decided to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations. It also requested the Special Committee to take that information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration in each of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to undertake any special study and prepare any special report it might consider necessary.

5. At the same session and at each subsequent session, the General Assembly, after considering the report of the Special Committee,[2] has adopted a resolution renewing the mandate of the Special Committee.

6. On the occasion of the tenth, twentieth, twenty-fifth and thirtieth anniversaries of the Declaration, the General Assembly, by approving the related reports of the Special Committee, adopted resolutions 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, 35/118 of 11 December 1980, 40/56 of 2 December 1985 and 45/33 of 20 November 1990, containing a series of recommendations with a view to facilitating the speedy implementation of the Declaration.

7. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly, by adopting resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, endorsed as a plan of action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the proposals contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1 and Corr.1). The plan, *inter alia*, contained the following provisions:

> "22. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should:
>
> "(a) Prepare periodic analyses of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in each Territory;
>
> "(b) Review the impact of the economic and social situation on the constitutional and political advancement of Non-Self-Governing Territories;
>
> "(c) Organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts.
>
> "23. The Special Committee should continue to seek, as a matter of priority, the full cooperation of administering Powers with regard to the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories.
>
> "24. The Special Committee, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should make every effort to facilitate and encourage the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in regional and international organizations, as well as in the specialized agencies of the United Nations system,

the Special Committee itself and other United Nations decolonization bodies."

8. At its fifty-second session, after considering the report of the Special Committee,[3] the General Assembly, on 10 December 1997, adopted resolution 52/78 in which it, *inter alia*:

"5. *Approves* the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples covering its work during 1997, including the programme of work envisaged for 1998;[4]

"...

"11. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out those actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence, and in particular:

"(*a*) To formulate specific proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session;

"(*b*) To continue to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;

"(*c*) To continue to pay special attention to the small Territories, in particular through the dispatch of regular visiting missions, and to recommend to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination and independence;

"(*d*) To take all necessary steps to enlist worldwide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

"12. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to receive visiting missions to the Territories to secure first-hand information and to ascertain the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants;

"13. *Also calls upon* the administering Powers that have not participated in the work of the Special Committee to do so at its 1998 session;".

9. At the same session, the General Assembly also adopted eight other resolutions, one consensus and three decisions relating to specific Territories or other items on the agenda of the Special Committee, as well as a number of other resolutions relevant to the work of the Special Committee, by which the Assembly entrusted the Special Committee with specific tasks in relation to those Territories and items. Those decisions are listed below.

### 1. Resolutions, consensus and decisions concerning specific Territories

#### Resolutions

| *Territory* | *Resolution No.* | *Date of adoption* |
|---|---|---|
| Western Sahara | 52/75 | 10 December 1997 |
| New Caledonia | 52/76 | 10 December 1997 |
| American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands | 52/77 A and B | 10 December 1997 |

#### Consensus

| *Territory* | *Decision No.* | *Date of adoption* |
|---|---|---|
| Gibraltar | 52/419 | 10 December 1997 |

#### Decisions

| *Territory* | *Decision No.* | *Date of adoption* |
|---|---|---|
| East Timor | 52/402 | 19 September 1997 |
| Falkland Islands (Malvinas) | 52/409 | 10 November 1997 |

### 2. Resolutions concerning other items

| *Item* | *Resolution No.* | *Date of adoption* |
|---|---|---|
| Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations | 52/71 | 10 December 1997 |
| Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories | 52/72 | 10 December 1997 |
| Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations | 52/73 | 10 December 1997 |
| Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories | 52/74 | 10 December 1997 |
| Dissemination of information on decolonization | 52/79 | 10 December 1997 |

### 3. Decision concerning other questions

| *Question* | *Decision No.* | *Date of adoption* |
|---|---|---|
| Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration | 52/417 | 10 December 1997 |

10. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 19 September 1997, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to defer consideration of the item entitled "Question of East Timor" and to include it in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session (see decision 52/402).

11. At its 47th plenary meeting, on 10 November 1997, the General Assembly decided to defer consideration of the item entitled "Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)"and to include it in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session (decision 52/409).

### 4. Other resolutions and decisions relevant to the work of the Special Committee

12. Other resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-second session that were relevant to the work of the Special Committee and that were taken into consideration by the Special Committee are listed in a note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/L.1870).

### 5. Membership of the Special Committee

13. As at 1 January 1998, the Special Committee was composed of the following 25 members:

Antigua and Barbuda
Bolivia
Chile
China
Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
Cuba
Ethiopia
Fiji
Grenada
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Mali
Papua New Guinea
Russian Federation
Saint Lucia
Sierra Leone
Syrian Arab Republic
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
United Republic of Tanzania
Venezuela
Yugoslavia

A list of representatives who attended the meetings of the Special Committee in 1998 appears in documents A/AC.109/INF/36 and A/AC.109/INF/36/Add.1.

14. By a letter dated 14 August 1998 addressed to the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/2133), the Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations informed the Bureau and the membership of the Special Committee of the decision of Trinidad and Tobago to withdraw from the Committee with effect from 14 August 1998.

## B. Opening of the meetings of the Special Committee in 1998 and election of officers

15. The Secretary-General addressed the Special Committee at its opening (1484th) meeting, on 6 February 1998. The Chairman made a statement at that meeting (see A/AC.109/SR.1484).

16. At the same meeting, the Special Committee unanimously elected the following officers:

*Chairman*:
Mr. Utula Utuoc Samana (Papua New Guinea)

*Vice-Chairmen*:
Mr. Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla (Cuba)
Mr. Moctar Ouane (Mali)

*Rapporteur*:
Mr. Fayssal Mekdad (Syrian Arab Republic)

17. Following the departure on 27 March 1998 of Mr. Utula Utuoc Samana, the Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea, Mr. Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla (Cuba), served as the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee during its 1998 session.

## C. Organization of work

18. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1871), the Special Committee decided to maintain the arrangement it had at its previous session, by which its Subcommittee and its Working Group were replaced by an Open-ended Bureau.

19. By adopting the Chairman's suggestions referred to above, the Special Committee also decided to adopt the suggestions of the Chairman relating to the allocation of items and the procedure for their consideration (A/AC.109/L.1871, sections 2 and 3).

20. Statements relating to the organization of work were made at the 1484th meeting, on 6 February, by the Chairman and by the representatives of Indonesia, Portugal and the Russian Federation; and at the 1489th and 1496th meetings, on 1 and 13 July, by the Acting Chairman (see A/AC.109/SR.1484, 1489 and 1496).

21. At the 1487th meeting, on 29 June 1998, the Acting Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegations of Spain had expressed the wish to participate in the proceedings of the Special Committee on the question of Gibraltar. The Special Committee decided to accede to the request.

22. At the 1488th meeting, on 30 June 1998, the Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegations of Brazil and Sao Tome and Principe had expressed the wish to participate in the Special Committee's consideration of the question of East Timor. The Special Committee decided to accede to the request.

23. At the 1492nd meeting, on 6 July 1998, the Acting Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegations of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay had expressed the wish to participate in the proceedings of the Special Committee on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). The Special Committee decided to accede to the request.

## D. Meetings of the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies

24. In keeping with its resolve to continue taking all possible measures to rationalize the organization of its work, and with the full and close cooperation of its entire membership, the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies were again able to keep to a minimum the number of their formal meetings, as indicated below, by holding, whenever possible, informal meetings and extensive consultations through officers of the Special Committee.

### 1. Special Committee

25. The Special Committee held 17 meetings at Headquarters during 1997, as follows:

(a) First part of the session: 1484th meeting, 6 February; 1485th meeting, 30 April; and 1486th meeting, 22 May;

(b) Second part of the session: 1487th to 1496th meetings, 29 June to 13 July; 1497th to 1500th meetings, 10 to 12 August.

26. During the session, the Special Committee considered in plenary meetings the following questions and adopted decisions thereon, as indicated below:

| *Question* | *Meetings* | *Decision* |
|---|---|---|
| Question of sending visiting missions to Territories | 1487, 1499 | Para. 134 |
| Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations | 1469, 1470 | Para. 167 |
| Special Committee decision of 15 August 1991 concerning Puerto Rico | 1497–1498 | Para. 41 |
| American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands | 1493–1496 | Para. 209 |
| Guam | 1493–1496 | Para. 227 |
| Tokelau | 1495 | Para. 218 |
| Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories | 1495 | Para. 142 |
| Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in territories under their administration | 1495 | Para. 149 |
| Gibraltar | 1487 | Para. 186 |
| East Timor | 1488–1491 | Para. 181 |
| New Caledonia | 1493, 1495, 1496 | Para. 200 |
| Falkland Islands (Malvinas) | 1492 | Para. 241 |
| Western Sahara | 1488 | Para. 199 |
| Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations | 1500 | Para. 160 |

### 2. Subsidiary bodies

#### Open-ended Bureau

27. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1871), the Special Committee decided to maintain the arrangement it had at its previous session, by which its Subcommittee and its Working Group were replaced by an Open-ended Bureau.

28. During the period covered by the present report, the Open-ended Bureau held four meetings.

29. At the 1496th meeting, on 13 July, the Acting Chairman drew members' attention to the draft report of the Open-ended Bureau contained in aide-mémoire 13/98 dated 30 June 1998. At the same meeting, following statements by the representatives of Chile, Cuba, the Russian Federation and the Syrian Arab Republic, the Special Committee decided to take up the draft report at a later stage of its work.

30. At the 1499th meeting, on 11 August, the Acting Chairman drew attention to the report of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/L.1886), as well as to the paper submitted by the Acting Chairman (ibid., annex).

31. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted the report of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/L.1886), without a vote.

## E. Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable

32. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1871), the Special Committee decided to take the question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable as appropriate. In taking that decision, the Special Committee recalled that, in its report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session,[5] it had stated that, subject to any directives that the Assembly might wish to give in that connection, it would continue, as part of its programme of work for 1998, to review the list of Territories to which the Declaration applied. The Special Committee further recalled that, by paragraph 5 of its resolution 52/78, the Assembly had approved the report of the Special Committee, including the programme of work envisaged by the Special Committee for 1998.

33. At its 1499th meeting, on 11 August, the Special Committee decided to continue its consideration of the question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its fifty-third session (A/AC.109/L.1886).

### Special Committee decision of 15 August 1991 concerning Puerto Rico[6]

34. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, by adopting the suggestions put forward by the Chairman relating to the organization of its work (A/AC.109/L.1871), the Special Committee decided to take up as appropriate an item entitled "Special Committee decision of 15 August 1991 concerning Puerto Rico" and to consider it in plenary meetings.

35. At its 1497th and 1498th meetings, on 10 and 11 August 1998, the Chairman drew attention to a number of communications received from organizations expressing the wish to be heard on Puerto Rico by the Special Committee. At the same meetings, the Special Committee agreed to accede to those requests and, at the 1497th and 1498th meetings, heard the representatives of the organizations concerned (see A/AC.109/SR.1497-1498), as indicated below:

*1497th meeting*

Mr. Manuel Fermín Arraiza, Colegio de Abogados de Puerto Rico
Rev. Eunice Santana, on behalf of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs
Mr. Fernando Martín-García, Puerto Rican Independence Party
Mr. Juan Mari Bras, Causa Común Independentista
Mr. Jorge Farinacci, Frente Socialista
Mr. Erasto Zayas Nuñez, on behalf of Gran Oriente Nacional de Puerto Rico
Mr. Carlos Vizcarrondo Irizarry, Partido Popular Democrático and La Comisión Autonomista Puertorriqueña
Mr. Juan Carlos Lizardi, Nacional Jóvenes Lulac
Mr. Ramón Luis Crespi Marrero, Agricultores Pro-Estadidad
Ms. Miriam Santiago, Educadores Arecibeños Pro-Estadidad
Mr. Luis Vega Ramos, PROELA
Ms. Marisol Corretjer Ruiz, Partido Nacionalista de Puerto Rico
Mr. Alberto Lozada-Colón, on behalf of Comisión Internacional de Unión Pro-Patria
Ms. Vanessa Ramos, American Association of Jurists
Mr. Julio A. Muriente Pérez, Nuevo Movimiento Independentista Puertorriqueño
Mr. John Ward Llambias, on behalf of Fundación Acción Democrática Puertorriqueña
Ms. Jennifer González-Colón, Give Puerto Rico a Chance

*1498th meeting*

Ms. Olga Rodriguez, on behalf of National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party
Ms. Hydee Rivera, Estadistas ante la O.N.U.
Mr. Wilfredo Santiago-Valiente, United Statehooders Organization, Inc.
Ms. Wilma E. Reverón Collazo, Congreso Nacional Hostosiano
Mr. Fernando Escabi, University Students of San Sebastián, Puertorriqueños Pro-Estadidad
Ms. Rosa Rivera Santos, Cidreños Pro-Autodeterminación
Mrs. Lolita Lebrón, on behalf of Puerto Rico, Mi Patria
Ms. Ana M. López, National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War and Political Prisoners
Ms. Elsie Valdés de Lizardi, Liga de Ciudadanos Latino Americanos Unidos
Ms. Nilda Rexach, National Advancement for Puerto Rican Culture
Mr. J. M. Rivera-Arvelo, U.S. Statehood for Puerto Rico, Inc.
Rev. Eliezar Valentín-Castañón, on behalf of General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church.

36. At the 1497th meeting, the representative of Cuba introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1885.

37. At the 1498th meeting, the representative of Cuba made a statement. The representative of the Russian Federation made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote. Statements were made by the representatives of China and Bolivia (see A/AC.109/SR.1498).

38. Following a statement by the Acting Chairman (see A/AC.109/SR.1498), the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1885 by a roll-call vote of 10 to

none, with 6 abstentions (see para. 41). The voting was as follows:*

*In favour:*

Bolivia, China, Cuba, Grenada, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Papua New Guinea, Saint Lucia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania.

*Against:*

None.

*Abstaining:*

Antigua and Barbuda, Chile, India, Indonesia, Russian Federation, Venezuela.

39. At the same meeting, the representatives of Bolivia, Iraq, Papua New Guinea, the United Republic of Tanzania and Venezuela made statements in explanation of vote after the vote (see A/AC.109/SR.1498).

40. At the same meeting, the Acting Chairman made a further statement (see A/AC.109/SR.1498).

41. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2131) adopted by the Special Committee at its 1498th meeting, on 11 August 1998, appears below:

"*The Special Committee*,

"*Bearing in mind* the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, as well as the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee concerning Puerto Rico,

"*Recalling* that 25 July 1998 marks the 100th anniversary of the United States of America's intervention in Puerto Rico,

"*Having heard* statements and testimonies representative of various viewpoints among the people of Puerto Rico and their social institutions,

"*Taking into account* the discussions in the Congress of the United States of America on relations between Puerto Rico and the United States of America,

"*Considering* that the decade of the 1990s was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988, as the Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and the sixteen resolutions and decisions adopted by the Special Committee on Decolonization on the question of Puerto Rico,

"*Aware* that the Puerto Rican people constitute a Latin American and Caribbean nation that has its own and unequivocal national identity,

"1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and the application of the fundamental principles of that resolution to the question of Puerto Rico;

"2. *Expresses* its hope, and that of the international community, that the Government of the United States of America will assume its responsibility of expediting a process that allows the Puerto Rican people to fully exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee on Puerto Rico;

"3. *Requests* the Rapporteur to present a report to the Special Committee next year on the implementation of the present resolution;

"4. *Decides* to keep the question of Puerto Rico under continuing review."

## F. Consideration of other matters

### 1. Matters relating to the small Territories

42. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1871), the Special Committee decided to include in its agenda an item entitled "Matters relating to the small Territories" and to consider it in its plenary meetings.

43. In taking those decisions, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 52/78, by paragraph 11 (c) of which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to pay special attention to the small Territories, in particular through the dispatch of regular visiting missions, and to recommend to the Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination and independence.

44. During the year, the Special Committee gave extensive consideration to all phases of the situation obtaining in the small Territories (see chaps. X-XII of the present report).

* The representative of Côte d'Ivoire informed the Special Committee that, had he been present during the voting, he would have voted in favour.

### 2. Compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other resolutions on decolonization

45. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1871), the Special Committee decided to consider in plenary meetings the question of compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other relevant resolutions on decolonization.

46. The Special Committee took that decision into account in its consideration of specific items.

### 3. Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters

47. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1871), the Special Committee decided to take up the question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters as appropriate.

48. Having regard to its programme of work for 1999, the Special Committee, at its 1497th meeting, on 11 August 1998, considered the question of holding meetings away from Headquarters, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961 and paragraph 3 (9) of resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, by which the Assembly authorized the Special Committee to meet elsewhere than at United Nations Headquarters whenever and wherever such meetings might be required for the effective discharge of its functions. Also at its 1497th meeting, the Special Committee decided that it would consider accepting such invitations as might be received in 1999 and that, when particulars of such meetings had become known, it would request the Secretary-General to seek the necessary budgetary provision in accordance with established procedure (see A/AC.109/L.1886).

### 4. Pattern of conferences

49. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1871), the Special Committee decided to take up as appropriate the item entitled "Pattern of conferences". In so doing, the Special Committee was conscious of the fact that it had initiated some important measures in rationalizing its work methods, many of which were subsequently incorporated in a number of resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly. Further recalling the measures it had taken theretofore in that connection, the Special Committee decided to continue to exercise its initiatives in the effective utilization of the limited conference resources and the further reduction of its documentation requirements.

50. The Special Committee also continued the practice of circulating communications and information material, as far as possible, in the form of informal notes and aides-mémoires in the original language of submission, thus curtailing documentation requirements and accruing considerable savings for the Organization. A list of the official documents issued by the Special Committee in 1998 is contained in the annex to the present chapter.

51. At its 1498th meeting, on 11 August, the Special Committee considered the item and noted that, during the year, it had closely followed the guidelines set forth in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the pattern of conferences, in particular resolution 52/214 of 22 December 1997. By organizing its programme of work effectively and holding extensive consultations, the Committee had been able to curtail considerably the number of its formal meetings. The Special Committee decided, taking into account its probable workload for 1999, to consider holding its meetings in accordance with the following schedule:

(a) *Plenary*

| | |
|---|---|
| February/March | As required |
| June/July | Up to 30 meetings (6-8 meetings a week) |

(b) *Bureau*

| | |
|---|---|
| February/July | 20 meetings |

It was understood that that programme would not preclude the holding of any ad hoc meetings that might be warranted and that the Special Committee might, in early 1999, review the scheduled meetings on the basis of any new developments. The Special Committee decided, subject to any directives given by the General Assembly, to strive, while fulfilling its mandate to keep its meetings to a minimum (see A/AC.109/L.1886).

### 5. Control and limitation of documentation

52. At its 1498th meeting, on 11 August 1998, the Special Committee considered the question of the control and limitation of documentation and noted that, during the year, it had taken further measures to control and limit its documentation in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 34/50 of 23 November 1979, 39/68 D of 13 December 1984, 51/211 B of 18 December 1996 and 52/214 of 22 December 1997. The Special Committee noted that, by its resolution 50/206 B of

23 December 1995, the General Assembly had approved the recommendation of the Special Committee to replace its verbatim records by summary records. Having reviewed the need for such records, the Special Committee decided to maintain its summary records (see A/AC.109/L.1886).

### 6. Cooperation and participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee

53. In compliance with the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the delegations of New Zealand and Portugal, as representatives of the administering Powers concerned, continued to participate, in accordance with established procedure, in the related work of the Special Committee (see chaps. IX and XI).

54. The delegation of France participated in the work of the Special Committee during its consideration of the question of New Caledonia (see para. 191).

55. The delegations of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America did not participate in the work of the Special Committee.[7] However, as a result of informal consultations with the Special Committee held during the fifty-first session of the General Assembly in November 1996 and January-March 1997, which resulted in the adoption by the Assembly of consolidated resolutions 51/224 and 52/77 on small Territories without a vote, both administering Powers expressed their desire to continue informal dialogue with the Special Committee on the questions (see A/51/PV.83, A/51/PV.94 and A/52/PV.69).

56. In a related context, the Special Committee, at its 1499th meeting, on 11 August 1998, adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1884, on the question of sending visiting missions to Territories. By that resolution (A/AC.109/2130), the Special Committee noted with appreciation that, at the invitation of the Government of New Zealand, a visiting mission had been dispatched to Tokelau in July 1994. It called upon the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by receiving United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under their administration (see para. 134).

### 7. Participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee

57. At its 1498th meeting, on 11 August 1998, the Special Committee considered the question of the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in its work and decided that the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee at Headquarters, as recommended by the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, should continue to be facilitated through the reimbursement by the United Nations of the expenses relating to their participation under the terms of the guidelines amended by the Committee and approved by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session. In that regard, the Special Committee decided to consider the guidelines at its plenary meetings with a view to amending them further, where appropriate (see A/AC.109/L.1886).

### 8. Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights

58. Information on the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights is contained in paragraphs 120 to 124.

### 9. Representation at seminars, meetings and conferences of intergovernmental and other organizations

59. At its 1498th meeting, on 11 August 1998, the Special Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the Committee continue to be represented at seminars, meetings and conferences organized by United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of decolonization. In keeping with its decision of 6 February 1998, the Committee would authorize its Chairman to hold consultations, as appropriate, concerning its participation in those meetings, as well as the level of representation, when accepting invitations. In accordance with established practice, the Chairman would hold consultations with the Bureau members who, in turn, would consult with the members of the Committee from their respective regional groups. The Special Committee also decided to recommend that the General Assembly make appropriate budgetary provisions to cover such activities in 1999 (see A/AC.109/L.1886).

### 10. Report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly

60. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, by adopting the suggestions put forward by the Chairman relating to the organization of its work (A/AC.109/L.1871) and in accordance with paragraph 31 of General Assembly decision 34/401 on the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the Assembly, the Special Committee decided to follow the procedure adopted at its 1997 session[8]

in connection with the formulation of its recommendations to the Assembly at its fifty-third session.

61. At its 1496th meeting, on 13 July 1998, the Special Committee decided to authorize its Rapporteur to prepare and submit directly to the General Assembly the various chapters of the report of the Special Committee in accordance with established practice and procedure.

### 11. Other questions

62. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, by adopting the suggestions put forward by the Chairman relating to the organization of its work (A/AC.109/L.1871), the Special Committee decided, in its examination of specific Territories, to take into account the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions and decisions listed in the note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/L.1870, paras. 10 and 11).

63. That decision was taken into account during the consideration of specific Territories and other items in plenary meetings.

## G. Relations with United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

### 1. Economic and Social Council

64 In connection with the Special Committee's consideration of the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, and in accordance with paragraph 17 of General Assembly resolution 52/73 relating to the item, consultations were held during the year between the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Chairman of the Special Committee to consider appropriate measures for coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. Further, the representative of the Special Committee participated in the Council's consideration of the related item. An account of the foregoing and of the Special Committee's consideration of the item is set out in chapter VII.

### 2. Commission on Human Rights

65. During the year, the Special Committee followed closely the work of the Commission on Human Rights with regard to the question of the right of peoples to self-determination and its application to peoples under colonial domination, and to the question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent Territories.

66. In its consideration of the Territories concerned, the Special Committee took into account the relevant resolutions adopted by the Commission on Human Rights, including resolutions on the question of Western Sahara (1998/5), the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1998/13), the Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate a draft declaration in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 49/214 of 23 December 1994 (1998/14), the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1998/15), the question of the realization in all countries of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and study of special problems which the developing countries face in their efforts to achieve these human rights (1998/33) and the right to development (1998/72); and resolution 1998/28 on the work of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, as well as the Subcommission's report.[9] It also took into account the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in East Timor.[10] The Special Committee further took into account the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including resolutions 52/101, 52/102, 52/103, 52/104, 52/105, 52/113, 52/123, 52/131, 52/136 and 52/148 of 12 December 1997.

### 3. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

67. During the year, having regard to the relevant provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Special Committee continued to follow the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (see also paras. 75 and 76 below).

### 4. Specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations

68. In accordance with the requests contained in the relevant General Assembly resolutions, the Special Committee continued its consideration of the question of the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with

the United Nations. An account of the Special Committee's consideration of the question is set out in chapter VII.

69. During the year, the Special Committee adopted decisions relating to the extension of assistance to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories. Those decisions are reflected in chapters VII, X and XI.

### 5. Organization of African Unity

70. Bearing in mind its earlier decision to maintain contact with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on a regular basis in order to assist in the effective discharge of its mandate, the Special Committee, as in previous years, followed closely the work of OAU.

### 6. Caribbean Community

71. Bearing in mind its earlier decision to maintain contact with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on a regular basis in order to assist in the effective discharge of its mandate, the Special Committee, as in previous years, followed closely the work of CARICOM.

### 7. South Pacific Forum

72. The Special Committee continued to follow closely the work of the South Pacific Forum concerning the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the South Pacific region.

### 8. Movement of Non-Aligned Countries

73. The Chairman represented the Special Committee at the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 18 to 20 May 1998 and the Ministerial Meeting of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Durban, South Africa, from 28 August to 3 September 1998.

### 9. Non-governmental organizations

74. Having regard to the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 52/78 and 52/79, the Special Committee continued to follow closely the activities of non-governmental organizations having a special interest in the field of decolonization. The participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Special Committee during the period under review is covered in detail in the Special Committee documents (see A/AC.109/2119 and 2121) and the present report (see paras. 35, 174, 189, 198 and 223). The related decisions of the Special Committee are reflected in chapter III.

## H. Action relating to international conventions/studies/programmes

### 1. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

75. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1871), the Special Committee decided to include in the agenda of its 1998 session an item entitled "International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination" and to consider it at its plenary meetings.

76. The Special Committee continued to monitor related developments in Territories, having regard to the relevant provisions of article 15 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (see resolution 2106 A (XX), annex).

### 2. Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

77. The Special Committee continued to take into account the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations bodies concerned relating to the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, including in particular General Assembly resolution 52/111 of 12 December 1997 and the relevant report of the Secretary-General.[11]

## I. Review of work

78. As noted elsewhere in the present report, the reform processes initiated by the Special Committee in 1991, which brought about a number of changes and improvements in its approach, methods and procedures, continued to be pursued in 1998. The measures adopted by the Special Committee included the streamlining and consolidation of a number of its resolutions. With regard to the preparation of the consolidated draft resolution, the Special Committee held extensive informal consultations with the administering Powers concerned and other States as well as with the representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Special Committee's recommendation to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session on 12 Territories was consolidated into three resolutions (A/AC.109/2124, A/AC.109/2128 and A/AC.109/2129; see paras. 209, 218 and 227).

79. The Special Committee also reviewed its resolutions on the question of sending visiting missions to Territories

(A/AC.109/2130), information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations (A/AC.109/2123), economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/AC.109/2125) and implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (A/AC.109/2132), as well as its decision on military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration (A/AC.109/2126).

80. As noted in chapter II, the Special Committee held a regional seminar at Nadi, Fiji, in June 1998 in implementation of the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991.

81. In accordance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly, the Special Committee continued to seek suitable means for the implementation of resolution 1514 (XV) in all Territories to which the Declaration is applicable and formulated specific proposals and recommendations in that regard.

82. On the question of the publicity to be given to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization, the Special Committee adopted a resolution (A/AC.109/2120) which it recommended to the General Assembly for action at its fifty-third session (see chap. III).

83. The Special Committee also continued its review of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable. With regard to its decision of 15 August 1991 concerning Puerto Rico, the Special Committee heard a number of representatives of organizations concerned and adopted a resolution on the matter (A/AC.109/2131), which is set out in paragraph 41.

84. In accordance with the guidelines established by the General Assembly, the Special Committee was able during the year to reduce the number of its formal meetings and to minimize the wastage resulting from cancellation of scheduled meetings.

## J. Future work

85. In accordance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly since 1961 and subject to further directives from the Assembly at its fifty-third session, the Special Committee intends to continue during 1999 to pursue its efforts in bringing to a speedy and unconditional end colonialism in all its forms and manifestations, in accordance with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which is contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) on 14 December 1960.

86. Given the significance of the end of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the Special Committee will endeavour to look at its own work critically, making an assessment of the effectiveness of its activities and the areas in which it can effect improvements.

87. In order to facilitate the consultations on the intended approach to that assessment, and on the basis of the general discussions and comments of delegates during the current session, the Acting Chairman presented a paper, without prejudice to the position of any delegation, which is annexed to the report of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/L.1886).

88. In order to discharge its responsibilities, the Special Committee will keep under continuous review any developments concerning each Territory. It will also review the compliance by Member States, particularly the administering Powers, with the relevant decisions and resolutions of the United Nations. In that connection, the Special Committee intends to improve and strengthen its dialogue and cooperation with the administering Powers.

89. The Special Committee will continue to submit conclusions and recommendations on the specific measures necessary to achieve the objectives set out in the Declaration and the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. The Special Committee also intends to continue its review of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable.

90. The Special Committee will continue to fulfil the responsibilities that have been entrusted to it in the context of the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/181. The activities to be undertaken in that connection include a seminar in the Caribbean region to be organized by the Special Committee in 1999, to be attended by representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

91. The Special Committee will continue to seek the views of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in that regard will seek the implementation of General Assembly resolutions calling upon the administering Powers to cooperate or to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee by inviting United Nations visiting missions to the Territories under their administration. Having regard to the constructive role played by such missions in the past, the Special Committee continues to attach the utmost importance to the dispatch of visiting missions as a means of collecting

adequate and first-hand information on conditions in the Territories and on the wishes and aspirations of the people concerning their future status. Accordingly, the Special Committee will continue to seek the full cooperation of the administering Powers on the matter.

92. The Special Committee will continue to pay special attention to the specific problems of the small island Territories, which constitute the overwhelming majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. Aware that, in addition to general problems facing developing countries, those island Territories also suffer handicaps arising from the interplay of such factors as size, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, fragility of ecosystems, constraints in transport and communications, great distances from market centres, a highly limited internal market, lack of natural resources, weak indigenous technological capacity, the acute problem of obtaining freshwater supplies, heavy dependence on imports and a small number of commodities, depletion of non-renewable resources, migration, particularly of personnel with high-level skills, shortage of administrative personnel and heavy financial burdens, the Special Committee will continue to recommend measures to facilitate a sustained and balanced growth of the fragile economies of those Territories and increased assistance in the development of all the sectors of their economies, with particular emphasis on programmes of diversification. The Special Committee believes also that the issues facing the Non-Self-Governing Territories, such as environmental problems; the impact of hurricanes, volcanoes and other natural disasters, beach and coastal erosion and drought; finding ways and means to fight drug trafficking, money laundering and other illegal and criminal activities; and the illegal exploitation of the marine resources of the Territories and the need to utilize those resources for the benefit of their peoples, should remain the focus of its attention. In so doing, the Special Committee will continue to take into consideration the recommendations of the regional seminars that it has organized since 1990 (see A/AC.109/1040 and Corr.1, A/AC.109/1043, A/AC.109/1114, A/AC.109/1159, A/AC.109/2030, A/AC.109/2058 and A/AC.109/2089).

93. It is the intention of the Special Committee to continue to follow closely the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. In so doing, the Special Committee, as in the past, will review the actions taken or envisaged by international organizations in the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. The Special Committee will hold further consultations and contacts with those organizations, as appropriate. It will also be guided by the results of consultations held in 1998 and those to be held in 1999 between its Chairman and the President of the Economic and Social Council in the context of the relevant decisions of the Assembly, the Council and the Special Committee itself. Further, the Special Committee will maintain close contact with the Secretaries-General and senior officials of regional organizations, such as the Organization of African Unity, the Organization of American States, the Caribbean Community and the South Pacific Forum, particularly those in the Caribbean and Pacific regions. The objective of those contacts is to facilitate the effective implementation of the decisions of the various United Nations bodies and to foster cooperation between the specialized agencies and the regional organizations in providing assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in a given region.

94. The Special Committee will also strive to follow up on the General Assembly's request that the participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of relevant meetings and conferences of the agencies and organizations be facilitated so that the Territories can benefit from the related activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system. Such participation would constitute an effective means of promoting the progress of the peoples of those Territories, enabling them to enhance their standard of living and achieve greater self-sufficiency.

95. The Special Committee intends to take into account the agreement reached with the European Union on the resolution on economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/AC.109/2125) and to continue its cooperation with interested States to ensure that the interests of the peoples of those Territories are protected. The Special Committee will continue its study of military activities and arrangements in the Territories and will also cooperate with interested States in that regard.

96. Taking into consideration its mandate on Western Sahara and its primary responsibility to ensure the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) for all Non-Self-Governing Territories, and in accordance with a decision it had taken at its 1397th meeting, on 23 August 1991, the Special Committee may dispatch a mission to Western Sahara during the holding of the referendum in the Territory.

97. Taking into account the views expressed by the representatives of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories at the regional seminars organized by the Special Committee since 1990, as well as the recommendations contained in the Plan of Action for the International Decade

for the Eradication of Colonialism, the Special Committee will continue to consider, in cooperation with the administering Powers, how to intensify and improve the participation of the representatives of those Territories in the work of the Special Committee within existing resources.

98. In the light of the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions concerning the pattern of conferences and taking into consideration its experience in previous years as well as its probable workload for 1999, the Special Committee has approved a tentative programme of meetings for 1999, which it commends to the Assembly for approval.

99. The Special Committee has consistently reiterated the importance of disseminating information on decolonization as an instrument for furthering the aims of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Accordingly, the Special Committee will continue to use opportunities such as the regional seminars and the observance of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights to disseminate information on its activities and on the Non-Self-Governing Territories in an effort to mobilize world public opinion to support and assist the people of the Territories in bringing about the speedy and unconditional end of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations.

100. The Special Committee suggests that, when the General Assembly, at its fifty-third session, examines the question of the implementation of the Declaration, it may wish to take into account the various recommendations of the Special Committee that are reflected in the relevant chapters of the present report and, in particular, to endorse the proposals outlined in the present section in order to enable the Special Committee to carry out the tasks it envisages for 1999. The Special Committee is gratified that the informal consultations it held with the administering Powers (the United Kingdom and the United States) and the European Union concluded in an agreement on the consolidated draft resolution on small Territories and the draft resolution on economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, respectively. It intends to pursue those consultations, which it hopes will be transformed into formal cooperation. The Special Committee recommends that the Assembly renew its appeal to the administering Powers to take all necessary steps for the implementation of the Declaration and the relevant United Nations resolutions, in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples of the Territories concerned. In that connection, the Special Committee recommends that the Assembly again request the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and, in particular, to participate actively in the work relating to the Territories under their respective administrations. The Special Committee also recommends that the Assembly continue to invite the administering Powers to allow representatives of the Territories concerned to participate in the discussions in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) and the Special Committee on the items relating to their respective Territories. Further, the Assembly might also wish to renew its appeal to all States, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to comply with the various requests addressed to them by the Assembly and the Security Council in their relevant resolutions.

101. The Special Committee recommends that, in approving the programme of work outlined above, the General Assembly make adequate provision to cover the activities that the Special Committee envisages for 1999. In that regard, the Special Committee recalls that the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 includes resources to provide for the programme of work of the Special Committee for 1998 and 1999 based on the level of activities approved for 1997, without prejudice to the decisions to be taken by the Assembly at its fifty-third session. On that basis, the Special Committee understands that, should any additional provisions be required over and above those included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999, proposals for supplementary requirements would be made to the General Assembly for its approval. Finally, the Special Committee expresses the hope that the Secretary-General will continue to provide it with all the facilities and personnel necessary for the discharge of its mandate, taking into account the various tasks assigned to it by the Assembly as well as those arising from decisions taken by it during the current year.

## K. Conclusion of the 1998 session

102. At its 1496th meeting, on 13 July 1998, the Special Committee decided to authorize its Rapporteur to prepare and submit directly to the General Assembly the various chapters of the report of the Special Committee in accordance with established practice and procedure.

103. At the 1500th meeting, on 12 August 1998, the Acting Chairman made a statement on the occasion of the closing of the 1998 session of the Special Committee (see A/AC.109/SR.1500).

# Chapter II
## International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

104. On 19 December 1991, at its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/181, entitled "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism", and the Plan of Action contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1 and Corr.1). In the Plan of Action, "aimed at ushering in, in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism", the Assembly, *inter alia*, requested the Special Committee:

> "[to] organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts."

105. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, the Special Committee, mindful of the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and by approving the recommendation of its Chairman on the organization of work of the Special Committee for the year (A/AC.109/L.1871), decided to allocate to the Open-ended Bureau and plenary meetings of the Special Committee, as appropriate, the question of the "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism".

106. At its 1485th and 1499th meetings, on 30 April and 10 July 1998, respectively, the Special Committee considered the question of the "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism" and the Pacific Regional Seminar to Review the Political, Economic and Social Conditions in the Small Island Non-Self-Governing Territories.

107. On 5 May 1998, the guidelines and rules of procedure for the Pacific Regional Seminar (A/AC.109/2101) were issued. On 13 May, a corrigendum to that document was issued.

108. At the 1495th meeting, on 10 July 1998, the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee drew attention to the draft report of the Pacific Regional Seminar (see A/AC.109/SR.1495).

109. At the same meeting, the Rapporteur of the Pacific Regional Seminar introduced the draft report of the Seminar (subsequently issued as document A/AC.109/2121) containing a detailed account of the organization and proceedings of the Seminar, which had been held at Nadi, Fiji, from 16 to 18 June 1998, as well as a list of the topics discussed at the Seminar, a summary of the discussions and the list of participants. In the course of his statement, the Rapporteur of the Seminar made the following recommendations:

(a) Appropriate lead time to prepare the Seminar was essential; consultations with countries interested in hosting the Seminar should begin early;

(b) The list of proposed invitees presented for the Special Committee's consideration should contain some information on the individuals and organizations proposed; the Special Committee, in approving the list of funded and non-funded invitees, should give the Chairman flexibility so that, if one funded expert or funded representative of an organization could not attend, another one of the approved invitees might benefit from funding if circumstances warrant it;

(c) The Seminar's agenda was quite ambitious and extensive; experts who were asked to prepare presentations (discussion papers) should be asked to cover appropriately the main themes of the agenda, not merely asked to choose, because the Seminar could end up with several of them covering one topic while other topics go uncovered;

(d) Participants should be asked to prepare a one-page summary of their presentation and recommendations in addition to their full presentation and submit them in advance of the Seminar;

(e) The Seminar's schedule of meetings should be determined in advance, so that those presenting papers might know when they would make their presentation and how much time they would have for discussion of each item; certainly, flexibility should always be maintained, but this simple procedure might help in planning so that the Special Committee would not have to wait until the Seminar began to have a list of speakers;

(f) The question-and-answer period at the Fiji Seminar was particularly useful in promoting an open and frank discussion; that practice should be maintained after the presentations are made;

(g) The Seminar's guidelines and rules of procedure should be updated to reflect the experience gained in the past few years of organizing and conducting seminars.

110. At the same meeting, the Special Committee decided to take note of the recommendations proposed by the

Rapporteur of the Pacific Regional Seminar (see A/AC.109/SR.1495).

111. At the same meeting, following the proposal made by the Acting Chairman (see A/AC.109/SR.1495), the Special Committee decided to consider the English text of the draft report.

112. At the same meeting, the Special Committee decided to take note of the report of the Pacific Regional Seminar (see A/AC.109/SR.1495).

113. At its 1499th meeting, on 11 August 1998, the Special Committee considered the question of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. Noting that the Plan of Action for the Decade provided for the holding of seminars alternately in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions, the Special Committee decided to organize in 1999 a seminar in the Caribbean region, to be attended by representatives of all Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Special Committee also decided to invite United Nations organs, agencies and institutions to apprise the Secretary-General of actions they have taken in implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991 relating to the Plan of Action and to submit a report to the Assembly at its fifty-fourth session (see A/AC.109/L.1886).

# Chapter III
# Dissemination of information on decolonization

## A. Consideration by the Special Committee

114. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, the Special Committee decided, *inter alia*, to take up the question of the dissemination of information on decolonization as a separate item and to consider it at its plenary meetings (see A/AC.109/L.1871).

115. The Special Committee considered the question at its 1487th meeting, on 29 June 1998.

116. In its consideration of the question, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including, in particular, resolution 52/79 of 10 December 1997 on the dissemination of information on decolonization, and resolution 52/78 of the same date on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

117. The Special Committee held consultations with the representatives of the Department of Public Information and of the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat at its 1487th meeting (see A/AC.109/SR.1487).

118. At the same meeting, the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee drew attention to a draft resolution prepared by the Chairman, contained in document A/AC.109/L.1872.

119. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1872 without a vote (A/AC.109/2120).

### Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights

120. The Special Committee observed the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights during its 1486th meeting, held at United Nations Headquarters on 22 May 1998.

121. At the 1486th meeting, the Acting Chairman and the Secretary-General made statements. A statement was also made by the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (see A/AC.109/SR.1486).

122. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of Colombia (on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries), Mauritius (on behalf of the Group of African States), Indonesia (on behalf of the Group of Asian States) and Brazil (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and also on behalf of the Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR)) as well as the observer delegation of Palestine to the United Nations (see A/AC.109/SR.1486).

123. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the Chief Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Development of Montserrat (see A/AC.109/SR.1486).

124. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of Portugal and Jamaica. Statements were made in the exercise of the right of reply by the representatives of Indonesia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Brazil and Portugal (see A/AC.109/SR.1486).

## B. Recommendation of the Special Committee

125. In accordance with the decision taken at its 1487th meeting, on 29 June 1998, the Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

**Dissemination of information on decolonization**

*The General Assembly*,

*Having examined* the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the dissemination of information on decolonization and publicity for the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization,[12]

*Recalling* its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and other resolutions and decisions of the United Nations concerning the dissemination of information on decolonization, in particular General Assembly resolution 52/79 of 10 December 1997,

*Recognizing* the need for flexible, practical and innovative approaches towards reviewing the options of self-determination for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories with a view to achieving complete decolonization by the year 2000,

*Reiterating* the importance of dissemination of information as an instrument for furthering the aims of the Declaration, and mindful of the role of world public opinion in effectively assisting the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to achieve self-determination,

*Recognizing* the role played by the administering Powers in transmitting information to the Secretary-General in accordance with the terms of Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Aware* of the role of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization,

1. *Approves* the activities in the field of dissemination of information on decolonization undertaken by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat;

2. *Considers it important* to continue its efforts to ensure the widest possible dissemination of information on decolonization, with particular emphasis on the options of self-determination available for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

3. *Requests* the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat to take into account the suggestions of the Special Committee to continue their efforts to take measures through all the media available, including publications, radio and television, as well as the Internet, to give publicity to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization and, *inter alia*:

(a) To continue to collect, prepare and disseminate, particularly to the Territories, basic material on the issue of self-determination of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(b) To seek the full cooperation of the administering Powers in the discharge of the tasks referred to above;

(c) To maintain a working relationship with the appropriate regional and intergovernmental organizations, particularly in the Pacific and Caribbean regions, by holding periodic consultations and exchanging information;

(d) To encourage the involvement of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization;

(e) To report to the Special Committee on measures taken in the implementation of the present resolution;

4. *Requests* all States, including the administering Powers, to continue to extend their cooperation in the dissemination of information referred to in paragraph 2 above;

5. *Requests* the Special Committee to follow the implementation of the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

# Chapter IV
# Question of sending visiting missions to Territories

## A. Consideration by the Special Committee

126. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, the Special Committee decided, *inter alia*, to take up the question of sending visiting missions to Territories as appropriate. The Special Committee further decided that the item should be considered in its plenary meetings and, as appropriate, in connection with its examination of specific Territories.

127. The Special Committee considered the question at its 1487th and 1499th meetings, on 29 June and 11 August 1998.

128. In its consideration of the question, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including, in particular, the pertinent provisions of resolution 52/78 of 10 December 1997 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and resolution 52/77 of the same date relating to specific Territories. The Special Committee also considered Assembly resolution 45/33 of 20 November 1990 relating to the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration.

129. During its consideration of the question, the Special Committee had before it the report of the Acting Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1882 and Add.1) on his consultations with representatives of the administering Powers, undertaken in accordance with paragraph 4 of the resolution adopted by the Committee at its 1474th meeting, on 16 June 1997.[13]

130. At the 1499th meeting, on 11 August 1998, the Chairman drew attention to his report on the item (A/AC.109/L.1882), as well as a draft resolution prepared by the Chairman, contained in document A/AC.109/L.1884.

131. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1884 without a vote (A/AC.109/2130) (see para. 134).

132. In addition to the consideration of this question, the Special Committee considered the specific Territories referred to it, taking into account the relevant provisions of the General Assembly resolutions mentioned in paragraph 128 above, as well as previous decisions of the Special Committee relating to the question.

133. By adopting at its 1496th meeting, on 13 July 1998, a consolidated resolution on 10 small Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/AC.109/2128) as well as resolutions on Tokelau (A/AC.109/2124) and Guam (A/AC.109/2129), the Special Committee endorsed a number of conclusions and recommendations concerning the sending of visiting missions to Territories, as reflected in chapter X, relating to American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands, and chapters XI and XII relating, respectively, to Tokelau and Guam.

## B. Decision of the Special Committee

134. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2130) adopted by the Special Committee at its 1499th meeting is reproduced below:

**Question of sending visiting missions to Territories**

*The Special Committee,*

*Having considered* the question of sending visiting missions to Territories,

*Having examined* the report of the Acting Chairman on the question,[14]

*Recalling*, the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee requesting the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the United Nations by receiving visiting missions in the Territories under their administration,

*Mindful* that United Nations visiting missions provide an effective means of assessing the situation in those Territories and of ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the peoples thereof regarding their future status,

*Conscious* that United Nations visiting missions enhance the capacity of the United Nations to assist the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories in attaining the objectives set forth in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and in other relevant resolutions of the Assembly,

*Noting with appreciation* the continuing exemplary cooperation of New Zealand, as an administering Power, in the work of the Special Committee, and that, at the invitation of the Government of New Zealand, a visiting mission was dispatched to Tokelau in July 1994,[15]

*Recalling* the dispatch in 1979 of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory of Guam, noting the recommendation of the 1996 Pacific regional seminar that a visiting mission be sent to Guam, and taking note of resolution No. 464 (LS), adopted by the twenty-third Guam legislature on 19 July 1996, in which it requested the dispatch of a United Nations visiting mission to that Territory,

*Welcoming* the invitation extended at the Pacific regional seminar held at Nadi, Fiji, from 16 to 18 June 1998, by the Governor of American Samoa to the Special Committee to send a visiting mission,

*Welcoming* the commencement of informal dialogue between the Special Committee and some administering Powers,

1. *Stresses* the need to dispatch periodic visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories in order to facilitate the full, speedy and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples with respect to those Territories;

2. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by receiving United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under their administration;

3. *Requests* the administering Powers to consider new approaches in the work of the Special Committee, and calls upon them to cooperate with the Special Committee in its efforts;

4. *Requests* its Acting Chairman to continue consultations with the administering Powers concerned on the implementation of paragraph 2 of the present resolution and to report thereon to the Special Committee as appropriate;

5. *Also requests* its Acting Chairman to enter into consultations with the administering Power of Guam with a view to facilitating the dispatch of a United Nations visiting mission to that Territory.

# Chapter V
# Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

## A. Consideration by the Special Committee

135. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, the Special Committee decided, *inter alia*, to take up as a separate item the question of economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing territories and to consider it in its plenary meetings (see A/AC.109/L.1871).

136. The Special Committee considered the question at its 1495th meeting, on 10 July 1998.

137. In its consideration of the question, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including, in particular, resolution 52/72 of 10 December 1997 on economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Special Committee also took into account the relevant provisions of Assembly resolution 45/33 of 20 November 1990 on the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples; and resolution 52/78 of 10 December 1997 on the implementation of the Declaration. Additionally, the Special Committee took into consideration the relevant documents of other intergovernmental bodies concerned, to which reference is made in the last preambular paragraph of the resolution it adopted on 10 July 1998 (see para. 142).

138. In 1994, the Special Committee, in keeping with its consistent goal of limiting documentation and streamlining its report to the General Assembly, recommended to the Assembly that, in preparing the general working papers on the Territories, the Secretariat should, where applicable, incorporate under separate headings those sections relating to economic and other activities which affect the interests of the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and those on military activities and arrangements in those Territories. By adopting resolution 49/89 of 16 December 1994, the Assembly approved, *inter alia*, that recommendation.

139. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it working papers prepared by the Secretariat containing, *inter alia*, information on economic conditions, with particular reference to foreign economic activities, in the following Territories: Anguilla, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands (A/AC.109/2102, 2106-2107, 2109, 2117).

140. At the 1495th meeting, on 10 July 1998, the Acting Chairman drew attention to the various working papers prepared by the Secretariat which contained references to economic and other activities which affected the interests of the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/L.1876/Rev.1).

141. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1876/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 142).

## B. Recommendation of the Special Committee

142. In accordance with the decision taken at its 1495th meeting, on 10 July 1998, the Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

**Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories**

*The General Assembly*,

*Having considered* the item entitled "Activities of foreign economic and other interests which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories",

*Having examined* the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the item,[16]

*Recalling* its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, as well as all its other relevant resolutions, including, in particular, resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991,

*Reaffirming* the solemn obligation of the administering Powers under the Charter of the United Nations to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Territories under their administration and to protect the human and natural resources of those Territories against abuses,

*Reaffirming also* that any economic or other activity that has a negative impact on the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and on the exercise of their right to self-determination in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) is contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter,

*Reaffirming further* that the natural resources are the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the indigenous populations,

*Aware* of the special circumstances of the geographical location, size and economic conditions of each Territory, and bearing in mind the need to promote the economic stability, diversification and strengthening of the economy of each Territory,

*Conscious* of the particular vulnerability of the small Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation,

*Conscious also* that foreign economic investment, when done in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes, could make a valid contribution to the socio-economic development of the Territories and could also make a valid contribution to the exercise of their right to self-determination,

*Concerned* about any activities aimed at exploiting the natural and human resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to the detriment of the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories,

*Bearing in mind* the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum and the Caribbean Community,

1. *Reaffirms* the right of peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, as well as their right to enjoyment of their natural resources and their right to dispose of those resources in their best interest;

2. *Affirms* the value of foreign economic investment undertaken in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes in order to make a valid contribution to the socio-economic development of the Territories;

3. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and reaffirms the legitimate rights of their peoples over their natural resources;

4. *Reaffirms its concern* about any activities aimed at the exploitation of the natural resources that are the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the indigenous populations, in the Caribbean, the Pacific and other regions, as well as their human resources, to the detriment of their interests, and in such a way as to deprive them of their right to dispose of those resources;

5. *Affirms* the need to avoid any economic and other activities which adversely affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

6. *Calls once again upon* all Governments that have not yet done so to take, in accordance with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, legislative, administrative or other measures in respect of their nationals and the bodies corporate under their jurisdiction that own and operate enterprises in the Non-Self-Governing Territories that are detrimental to the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories, in order to put an end to such enterprises;

7. *Reiterates* that the damaging exploitation and plundering of the marine and other natural resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in violation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, is a threat to the integrity and prosperity of those Territories;

8. *Invites* all Governments and organizations of the United Nations system to take all possible measures to ensure that the permanent sovereignty of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories over their natural resources is fully respected and safeguarded;

9. *Urges* the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requests the administering Powers to take all necessary steps to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories;

10. *Calls upon* the administering Powers concerned to ensure that no discriminatory working conditions prevail in the Territories under their administration and to promote in each Territory a fair system of wages applicable to all the inhabitants without any discrimination;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue, through all means at his disposal, to inform world public opinion of any activity that affects the exercise of the right of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV);

12. *Appeals* to the mass media, trade unions and non-governmental organizations, as well as individuals, to continue their efforts to promote the economic well-being of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

13. *Decides* to follow the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories so as to ensure that all economic activities in those Territories are aimed at strengthening and diversifying their economies in the interest of their peoples, including the indigenous populations, and at promoting the economic and financial viability of those Territories;

14. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to examine this question and report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

# Chapter VI
# Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration

## A. Consideration by the Special Committee

143. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, the Special Committee decided, *inter alia*, to take up as a separate item the question of military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers on Territories under their administration and to consider it in its plenary meetings (see A/AC.109/L.1871).

144. The Special Committee considered the question at its 1495th meeting, on 10 July 1998.

145. In its consideration of the question, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including, in particular, resolution 52/78 of 10 December 1997, in paragraph 9 of which the Assembly called upon the administering Powers to eliminate the remaining military bases in the Non-Self-Governing Territories in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the Assembly, and urged them not to involve those Territories in any offensive acts or interference against other States. The Special Committee also took into account Assembly decision 52/417 of 10 December 1997, in paragraph 8 of which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-third session. Further, the Special Committee took into account the relevant provisions of Assembly resolution 45/33 of 20 November 1990 on the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

146. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it working papers prepared by the Secretariat containing, *inter alia*, information on military activities and arrangements in Bermuda and Guam (A/AC.109/2109 and 2113).

147. At the 1495th meeting, on 10 July, the Chairman drew attention to a draft decision on the item (A/AC.109/L.1877).

148. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft decision A/AC.109/2126, without a vote (see A/AC.109/SR.1496).

## B. Recommendation of the Special Committee

149. In accordance with the decision taken at its 1495th meeting, on 10 July 1998, the Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

**Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration**

1. The General Assembly, having considered the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to an item on the agenda of the Special Committee entitled "Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration",[17] and recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and all other relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to military activities in colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories, reaffirms its strong conviction that military bases and installations in the Territories concerned could constitute an obstacle to the exercise by the people of those Territories of their right to self-determination, and reiterates its strong views that existing bases and installations, which are impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, should be withdrawn.

2. Aware of the presence of such bases and installations in some of those Territories, the General Assembly urges the administering Powers concerned to continue to take all necessary measures not to involve those Territories in any offensive acts or interference against other States.

3. The General Assembly reiterates its concern that military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration might run counter to the rights and interests of the colonial peoples concerned, especially their right to self-determination and independence. The Assembly once again calls upon the administering Powers concerned to terminate such activities and to eliminate such military bases in compliance with its relevant resolutions.

4. The General Assembly reiterates that the colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories and areas adjacent thereto should not be used for nuclear testing, dumping of nuclear wastes or deployment of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction.

5. The General Assembly deplores the continued alienation of land in colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly in the small island Territories of the Pacific and Caribbean regions, for military installations. The large-scale utilization of the local resources for this purpose could adversely affect the economic development of the Territories concerned.

6. The General Assembly takes note of the decision of some of the administering Powers to close or downsize some of those military bases in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

7. The General Assembly requests the Secretary-General to continue to inform world public opinion of those military activities and arrangements in colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories which constitute an obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

8. The General Assembly requests the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to examine this question and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

# Chapter VII
# Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

## A. Consideration by the Special Committee

150. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, the Special Committee decided, *inter alia*, to take up the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations and to consider it at its plenary meetings.

151. The Special Committee considered the question at its 1500th meeting, on 12 August 1998.

152. During its consideration of the question, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 52/73 of 10 December 1997 on the

implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, in paragraph 20 of which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-third session. The Special Committee also took into account all other resolutions adopted by the Assembly on this subject, including resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, endorsing the plan of action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

153. The Special Committee also took into account the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/38 of 30 July 1998. In paragraph 15 of that resolution, the Council drew the attention of the Special Committee to the resolution and to the discussion held on the subject at the Council's substantive session of 1998 (see E/1998/SR.46). Furthermore, the Special Committee took into consideration the relevant documents of other intergovernmental bodies concerned, to which reference is made in the fourth preambular paragraph of the resolution it adopted on 12 August 1998 (see also para. 160 below, fifth preambular paragraph).

154. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a report of the Secretary-General (A/53/130 and Corr.1), submitted in response to the request addressed to him by the General Assembly in paragraph 19 of resolution 52/73, containing information on the action taken by organizations of the United Nations system in implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations referred to above.

155. At the 1500th meeting, on 12 August 1998, the Acting Chairman drew the Special Committee's attention to the relevant documentation, including the report of the Secretary-General (A/53/130 and Corr.1), and to the related reports of the Acting Chairman of the Committee and the President of the Economic and Social Council (A/AC.109/L.1880 and E/1998/76), as well as to a draft resolution submitted by him on the item (A/AC.109/L.1881).

156. At the same meeting, in accordance with a decision taken by the Special Committee at its 1498th meeting, Mr. Carlyle Corbin made a statement on behalf of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands (see A/AC.109/SR.1500).

157. At the same meeting, the representatives of Papua New Guinea, Cuba, Antigua and Barbuda and China made statements concerning new elements relating to the draft resolution on the item and the modalities for their consideration. The Secretary of the Committee and the Acting Chairman made statements (see A/AC.109/SR.1500).

158. At the same meeting, the Special Committee, on the proposal of the Acting Chairman, took note of the statements made by the representatives of Papua New Guinea, Cuba, Antigua and Barbuda and China and decided that the Acting Chairman would circulate a non-paper containing new elements for a draft resolution before the commencement of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly (see A/AC.109/SR.1500).

159. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1881 without a vote (A/AC.109/2132).

## B. Recommendation of the Special Committee

160. In accordance with the decision taken at its 1500th meeting, on 12 August, the Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

**Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations**

*The General Assembly*,

*Having considered* the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations",

*Having also considered* the reports submitted on the item by the Secretary-General[18] and the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples on his consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council,[19]

*Having examined* the chapter of the report of the Special Committee relating to the item,[20]

*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and the resolutions of the Special Committee, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions, including in

particular Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/66 of 25 July 1997,

*Bearing in mind* the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum and the Caribbean Community,

*Conscious* of the need to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

*Noting* that the large majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are small island Territories,

*Welcoming* the assistance extended to Non-Self-Governing Territories by certain specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

*Stressing* that, because the development options of small island Non-Self-Governing Territories are limited, there are special challenges to planning for and implementing sustainable development and that those Territories will be constrained in meeting the challenges without the continued cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

*Stressing also* the importance of securing the necessary resources for funding expanded assistance programmes for the peoples concerned and the need to enlist the support of all major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard,

*Reaffirming* the mandates of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all the appropriate measures, within their respective spheres of competence, to ensure the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions,

*Expressing its appreciation* to the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum, the Caribbean Community and other regional organizations for the continued cooperation and assistance they have extended to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in this regard,

*Expressing its conviction* that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations help to facilitate the effective formulation of assistance programmes to the peoples concerned,

*Mindful* of the imperative need to keep under continuous review the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the various United Nations decisions relating to decolonization,

*Bearing in mind* the extremely fragile economies of the Non-Self-Governing small island Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea-level rise, and recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 52/73 of 10 December 1997 on the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations,

1. *Takes note* of the report of its Acting Chairman on his consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council,[19] and endorses the observations and suggestions arising therefrom;[21]

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

3. *Recommends* that all States intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

4. *Reaffirms* that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions;

5. *Reaffirms also* that the recognition by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspirations of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination entails, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples;

6. *Expresses its appreciation* to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate with the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and requests all the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to implement the relevant provisions of those resolutions;

7. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories;

8. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system and regional organizations to strengthen existing measures of support and formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;

9. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system concerned to provide information on:

(a) Environmental problems facing the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(b) The impact of natural disasters, such as hurricanes and volcanoes, and other environmental problems, such as beach and coastal erosion and droughts, on those Territories;

(c) Ways and means to assist the Territories in fighting drug trafficking, money-laundering and other illegal and criminal activities;

(d) The illegal exploitation of the marine resources of the Territories and the need to utilize those resources for the benefit of the peoples of the Territories;

10. *Recommends* that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and submit the proposals to their governing and legislative organs;

11. *Also recommends* that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continue to review at the regular meetings of their governing bodies the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

12. *Welcomes* the continued initiative exercised by the United Nations Development Programme in maintaining close liaison among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and in providing assistance to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

13. *Encourages* Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish and/or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies;

14. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to facilitate the participation of appointed and elected representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system so that the Territories may benefit from the related activities of those agencies and organizations;

15. *Recommends* that all Governments intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to accord priority to the question of providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to assist the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in working out appropriate measures for implementing the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and to prepare for submission to the relevant bodies, with the assistance of those agencies and organizations, a report on the action taken in implementation of the relevant resolutions, including the present resolution, since the circulation of his previous report;

17. *Commends* the Economic and Social Council for its debate and resolution on this issue and requests it to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

18. *Requests* the specialized agencies to report periodically to the Secretary-General on the implementation of the present resolution;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the governing bodies of the appropriate specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations so that those bodies may take the necessary measures to implement the resolution, and also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

20. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

# Chapter VIII
# Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations

## A. Consideration by the Special Committee

161. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, the Special Committee decided, *inter alia*, to take up the question of information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations and to consider it at its plenary meetings.

162. The Special Committee considered the question at its 1487th and 1493rd meetings, on 29 June and 7 July 1998.

163. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the resolutions of the General Assembly concerning information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations and related questions, in particular resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, by which the Assembly decided, *inter alia*, to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and to transfer certain of its functions to the Special Committee, and paragraph 5 of resolution 52/71 of 10 December 1997, in which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under Assembly resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-third session. Furthermore, the Special Committee took into account the relevant provisions of Assembly resolutions 52/78 of 10 December 1997, on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and 45/33 of 20 November 1990, relating to the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration.

164. At the 1487th meeting, on 29 June, the Acting Chairman drew attention to the draft resolution contained in document A/AC.109/L.1873 (see A/AC.109/SR.1487).

165. At the same meeting, the representative of Indonesia made a statement. Statements were made by the representatives of Portugal and Indonesia (see A/AC.109/SR.1487). Following a statement by the representative of China, the Committee decided to continue its consideration of the item at a later meeting.

166. At the 1493rd meeting, on 7 July, the Acting Chairman made a statement. At the same meeting, following statements made by the representatives of China and Papua New Guinea, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1873 without a vote (A/AC.109/2123).

## B. Recommendation of the Special Committee

167. In accordance with the decision taken at its 1493rd meeting, on 7 July 1998, the Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

**Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations**

*The General Assembly*,

*Having examined* the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations[22] and the action taken by the Special Committee in respect of that information,

*Having also examined* the report of the Secretary-General,[23]

*Recalling* its resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, in which it requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted to the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations and to take such information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

*Recalling also* its resolution 52/71 of 10 December 1997, in which it requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII),

*Stressing* the importance of timely transmission by the administering Powers of adequate information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter, in particular in relation to the preparation by the Secretariat of the working papers on the Territories concerned,

1. *Approves* the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to

the information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations;

2. *Reaffirms* that, in the absence of a decision by the General Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter with respect to that Territory;

3. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to transmit or continue to transmit to the Secretary-General the information prescribed in Article 73 *e* of the Charter, as well as the fullest possible information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories concerned, within a maximum period of six months following the expiration of the administrative year in those Territories;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that adequate information is drawn from all available published sources in connection with the preparation of the working papers relating to the Territories concerned;

5. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under Assembly resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

# Chapter IX
# East Timor, Gibraltar, New Caledonia and Western Sahara

## A. Introduction

168. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, the Special Committee decided, *inter alia*, to take up the question of East Timor, Gibraltar, New Caledonia and Western Sahara as separate items and to consider them in its plenary meetings (see A/AC.109/L.1871).

169. The present chapter contains an account of the consideration by the Special Committee of the Territories (sect. B). It also sets forth the recommendation on the question of New Caledonia to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session (sect. C).

170. In its consideration of the questions, the Special Committee took into account General Assembly resolutions 52/78 and 52/79 of 10 December 1997 and decisions 52/402 and 52/419 of 19 September and 10 December 1997 respectively, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions.

171. In its capacity as the administering Power concerned, and in accordance with established procedures, Portugal participated in the work of the Special Committee in relation to East Timor.

## B. Consideration by and decisions of the Special Committee

### 1. East Timor

172. The Special Committee considered the question of East Timor at its 1488th to 1491st meetings, from 30 June to 2 July 1998.

173. During its consideration of the question, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2111 and Add.1).

174. At its 1487th meeting, on 29 June 1998, the Special Committee granted requests for hearing from the following petitioners and heard their statements at the meetings indicated below:

*1488th meeting*

Mr. Eric Gustafson, on behalf of East Timor Action Network/United States
Mrs. Rodica Pintea-Austin, Member London University
Mr. Abílio Araújo, Timor Foundation for Reconciliation & Development
Mr. Rogério Pereira, Timorese Youth for Reconciliation
Mr. Azancot de Menezes, Associação Socialista de Timor
Mr. Antonio Tavares, SOS — Associação de Defesa dos Angolanos
Mr. José Ramos-Horta, National Council of Timorese Resistance
Mr. Augusto N. Miclat, Jr., Asia-Pacific Coalition for East Timor

*1489th meeting*

Professor Richard Tanter, Kyoto East Timor Association
Mr. Arsenio Paixo Bano, on behalf of the British Coalition for East Timor
Mr. Max Surjadinata, East Timor Alert Network/Canada

Mr. Basilio Dias Araujo, Indonesian Association of British Alumni of East Timor
Mr. Robert Murken, on behalf of Pax Christi International
Ms. Masako Kimura, on behalf of Free East Timor Japan Coalition
Ms. Maria Lurdes Soares, East Timor Cultural, Ethnic and Research Centre
Mr. Valente de Araujo
Mr. Matthew Traub, on behalf of Ms. Nita M. Lowey, Member of the United States Congress
Mr. João Carrascalão, Timorese Democratic Union
Mr. José Luis Guterres, Frente Revolucionaria da Timor-Leste Independente (FRETILIN)
Mr. Mari Alkatiri, Professor, University of Eduardo Mondlane
Ms. Miranda Sissons, on behalf of Hobart East Timor Committee
Mr. Cipriano Magno
Ms. Vanessa Ramos, on behalf of International Platform of Jurists for East Timor
Mr. Stevanus Waisapy, Solidaritas Pemuda Indonesia

*1490th meeting*

Mr. Carlos Alga, Rede de Colidaridad Internacional
Mr. Carlos de Fatima
Mr. Abilio Sereno, Committee of the Peace and Development in East Timor
Mr. Gil da Costa Alves
Mr. Augostinho Goncalves, National Committee of Indonesian Youth in East Timor
Mr. Ramidan Allan Purba, Forum Pemuda-Pemudi Indonesia
Mr. John Miller, on behalf of Parliamentarians for East Timor
Mr. Samsu Mafudi, The Indonesian American, Inc.
Ms. Eva Toth, on behalf of Amnesty International
Mr. Nuno Krus Abecasis, Member of Parliament, Social Democratic Center-Popular Party
Mr. António Barbosa de Melo, Member of Parliament, Social Democratic Party
Mr. Carlos Manuel Luís, Member of Parliament, Socialist Party

*1491st meeting*

Mr. João Cerveira Corregedor da Fonseca, Member of Parliament, Communist Party
Mr. Tom Kellogg, on behalf of Human Rights Watch/Asia
Sister Mary Therese Plante, on behalf of Catholic Institute for International Relations and Japanese Catholic Council for Justice and Peace
Mr. Filomeno de Jesus Hornay
Mr. Soenarto S. Atmodjo, Chairman, Forum Nusantara
Mr. Eliot Hoffman, on behalf of Australian Coalition for East Timor
Mr. Frank Fitzgerald, on behalf of East Timor — Ireland Solidarity Committee
Mr. Ahmad Z. Hadi Wayarabi, Indonesian Students Association
Mr. Grover Joseph Rees, on behalf of Mr. Christopher Smith, Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights, United States House of Representatives
Mr. John Miller, East Timor International Support Center of Darwin, Australia
Mr. Constancio Días Pinto, National Resistance of East Timorese Students

175. At the 1488th meeting, on 30 June 1998, the Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegations of Brazil and Sao Tome and Principe had expressed the wish to participate in the Special Committee's consideration of the item. The Special Committee decided to accede to the request.

176. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Indonesia, Portugal and Sao Tome and Principe. The representative of Indonesia made a further statement (see A/AC.109/SR.1488).

177. At the 1489th meeting, on 1 July 1998, the representative of Indonesia made a statement on a point of order.

178. At the 1489th and 1490th meetings, on 1 and 2 July 1998, the representatives of Portugal and Indonesia made further statements (see A/AC.109/SR.1489-1490).

179. At the 1491st meeting, on 2 July 1998, the representative of Brazil, on behalf of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal and Sao Tome and Principe) made a statement (see A/AC.109/SR.1491). The representative of Portugal also made a statement (see A/AC.109/SR.1491).

180. At the same meeting, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of Indonesia and Portugal (see A/AC.109/SR.1491).

**Decision of the Special Committee**

181. At its 1491st meeting, on 2 July 1998, on the proposal of the Acting Chairman, the Special Committee decided to continue consideration of the question at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give in that connection at its fifty-third session.

### 2. Gibraltar

182. The Special Committee considered the question of Gibraltar at its 1478th meeting, on 29 June 1998.

183. During its consideration of the question, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (see A/AC.109/2112).

184. At the 1487th meeting, the Acting Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegation of Spain had requested to participate in the Special Committee's consideration of the question. The Special Committee decided to accede to the request.

185. At the same meeting, with the consent of the Special Committee, Mr. Peter Caruana, Chief Minister of Gibraltar, made a statement (see A/AC.109/SR.1487). The representative of Spain also made a statement (see A/AC.109/SR.1487).

**Decision of the Special Committee**

186. At its 1487th meeting, on 29 June 1998, on the proposal of the Acting Chairman, the Special Committee decided to continue its consideration of the question at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give in that connection at its fifty-third session and, in order to facilitate consideration of the question by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), to transmit the relevant documentation to the Assembly.

### 3. New Caledonia

187. The Special Committee considered the question of New Caledonia at its 1493rd, 1495th and 1496th meetings, from 7 to 13 July 1998.

188. During its consideration of the question, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2114).

189. In accordance with a decision taken at the 1493rd meeting, Mr. Roch Wamytan, Front de libération nationale kanak socialiste (FLNKS), made a statement at the 1495th meeting of the Special Committee, on 10 July 1998.

190. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of China, Papua New Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Fiji and the Syrian Arab Republic.

191. At the same meeting, the representative of France, the administering Power, made a statement.

192. At the same meeting, the Special Committee decided to postpone the consideration of the item to a later stage of its work.

193. At the 1496th meeting, on 13 July 1998, the representative of Papua New Guinea introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1878/Rev.1.

194. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1878/Rev.1 without a vote (A/AC.109/2127).

**Decision of the Special Committee**

195. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2127) adopted by the Special Committee at its 1496th meeting, on 13 July 1998 appears in section C in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly.

### 4. Western Sahara

196. The Special Committee considered the question of Western Sahara at its 1488th meeting, on 30 June 1998.

197. During its consideration of the question, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2118).

198. At its 1487th meeting, on 29 June, the Special Committee granted a request for hearing to Mr. Moulud Said of the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguía el-Hamra y de Rió de Oro (Frente POLISARIO). Mr. Said made a statement at the 1488th meeting of the Special Committee (see A/AC.109/SR.1488).

**Decision of the Special Committee**

199. At its 1488th meeting, on 30 June 1998, on the proposal of the Acting Chairman, the Special Committee decided, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give in that connection at its fifty-third session and in order to facilitate consideration of the question by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), to transmit the relevant documentation to the Assembly.

## C. Recommendation of the Special Committee

200. In accordance with decisions taken at its 1484th and 1496th meetings, on 6 February and 13 July 1998, respectively, the Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

**Question of New Caledonia**

*The General Assembly*,

*Having considered* the question of New Caledonia,

*Having examined* the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation on the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to New Caledonia,[24]

*Reaffirming* the right of peoples to self-determination as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

*Recalling* its resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960,

*Noting* the importance of the positive measures being pursued in New Caledonia by the French authorities, in cooperation with all sectors of the population, to promote political, economic and social development in the Territory, including measures in the area of environmental protection and action with respect to drug abuse and trafficking, in order to provide a framework for its peaceful progress to self-determination,

*Noting also*, in this context, the importance of equitable economic and social development, as well as continued dialogue among the parties involved in New Caledonia in the preparation of the act of self-determination of New Caledonia,

*Welcoming* the strengthening of the process of review of the Matignon Accords[25] through the increased frequency of coordination meetings,

*Noting with satisfaction* the intensification of contacts between New Caledonia and neighbouring countries of the South Pacific region,

1. *Welcomes* the significant developments that have taken place in New Caledonia as exemplified by the signing of the Nouméa Accord of 5 May 1998[26] between the representatives of New Caledonia and the Government of France;

2. *Notes* the relevant provisions of the Nouméa Accord aimed at taking more broadly into account the Kanak identity in the political and social organization of New Caledonia, and also those provisions of the Accord relating to control of immigration and protection of local employment;

3. *Notes* the relevant provisions of the Nouméa Accord to the effect that New Caledonia may become a member or associate member of certain international organizations (such as international organizations in the Pacific region, the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Labour Organization) according to their regulations;

4. *Notes* the agreement between the signatories of the Nouméa Accord that the progress made in the emancipation process shall be brought to the attention of the United Nations;

5. *Invites* the administering Power to consider inviting to New Caledonia, at the time the new institutions are established, a mission of information which could comprise representatives of countries of the Pacific region;

6. *Calls upon* the administering Power to transmit information regarding the political, economic and social situation of New Caledonia to the Secretary-General;

7. *Urges* all the parties involved, in the interest of all the people of New Caledonia and building on the positive outcome of the review of the Matignon and Nouméa Accords, to maintain their dialogue in a spirit of harmony;

8. *Invites* all the parties involved to continue promoting a framework for the peaceful progress of the Territory towards an act of self-determination in which all options are open and which would safeguard the rights of all New Caledonians according to the letter and spirit of the Matignon and Nouméa Accords, which are based on the principle that it is for the populations of New Caledonia to choose how to control their destiny;

9. *Welcomes* measures that have been taken to strengthen and diversify the New Caledonian economy in all fields, and encourages further such measures in accordance with the spirit of the Matignon and Nouméa Accords;

10. *Also welcomes* the importance attached by the parties to the Matignon and Nouméa Accords to greater progress in housing, employment, training, education and health care in New Caledonia;

11. *Acknowledges* the contribution of the Melanesian Cultural Centre to the protection of the indigenous culture of New Caledonia;

12. *Notes* the positive initiatives aimed at protecting the natural environment of New Caledonia, notably the "Zonéco' operation designed to map and evaluate marine resources within the economic zone of New Caledonia;

13. *Acknowledges* the close links between New Caledonia and the peoples of the South Pacific and the positive actions being taken by the French and territorial authorities to facilitate the further development of those links, including the development of closer relations with the countries members of the South Pacific Forum;

14. *Welcomes*, in particular, in this regard, continuing high-level visits to New Caledonia by delegations from countries of the Pacific region and high-level visits by delegations from New Caledonia to countries members of the South Pacific Forum;

15. *Decides* to keep under continuous review the process unfolding in New Caledonia as a result of the signing of the Nouméa Accord;

16. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue the examination of this question at its next session and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

# Chapter X

# American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands

## A. Introduction

201. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, the Special Committee decided, *inter alia*, to take up the questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands and to consider them at its plenary meetings (see A/AC.109/L.1871).

202. The present chapter contains an account of the Special Committee's consideration of the 10 Territories (see sect. B) and its recommendations thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session (see sect. C).

203. In its consideration of the questions, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 52/78 of 10 December 1997 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. In paragraph 11 of that resolution, the Assembly requested the Special Committee, *inter alia*, to continue to pay special attention to the small Territories and to recommend to the Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination. The Special Committee also took into account relevant resolutions and decisions on the Territories adopted by the Assembly.

204. The delegations of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, the administering Powers concerned, did not participate in the Special Committee's consideration of the Territories under their administration.[27] However, as a result of informal consultations with the Special Committee held during the fifty-first session of the General Assembly in November 1996 and from January to March 1997, which resulted in the adoption by the Assembly, without a vote, of consolidated resolutions 51/224 and 52/77 on small Territories, both administering Powers expressed their desire to continue an informal dialogue with the Special Committee on the questions.

## B. Consideration by the Special Committee

205. The Special Committee considered the 10 Territories at its 1493rd and 1496th meetings, on 7 and 13 July 1998.

206. During its consideration of the questions, the Special Committee had before it the working papers prepared by the Secretariat on the Territories (A/AC.109/2102-2104, 2106-2110, 2115, 2117).

207. At the 1493rd meeting, on 7 July 1998, with the Committee's consent, Mr. Carlyle Corbin made a statement on behalf of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands (see A/AC.109/SR.1493).

208. At its 1496th meeting, the Special Committee adopted the consolidated draft resolution in document A/AC.109/L.1879 without a vote (A/AC.109/2128).

## C. Recommendations of the Special Committee

209. In accordance with the decision taken at its 1496th meeting, on 13 July 1998, the Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

### Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands

#### A
#### General

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands, hereinafter referred to as "the Territories",

*Having examined* the relevant chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[28]

*Recalling* its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to those Territories, including, in particular, the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the individual Territories covered by the present resolution,

*Recognizing* that the specific characteristics and the sentiments of the peoples of the Territories require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options of self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

*Recalling* its resolution 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960, containing the principles that should guide Member States in determining whether or not an obligation exists to transmit the information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Expressing its concern* that even thirty-eight years after the adoption of the Declaration there still remain a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories,

*Acknowledging* the significant achievements by the international community towards the eradication of colonialism in accordance with the Declaration, and conscious of the importance of continuing effective implementation of the Declaration, taking into account the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by the year 2000,

*Taking note* of the positive constitutional developments in some Non-Self-Governing Territories about which the Special Committee has received information, while also acknowledging the need for recognition to be given to expressions of self-determination by the peoples of the Territories consistent with practice under the Charter of the United Nations,

*Recognizing* that in the decolonization process there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination as enunciated by the General Assembly in its resolutions 1514 (XV), 1541 (XV) and other resolutions,

*Welcoming* the stated position of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland that it continues to take seriously its obligations under the Charter to develop self-government in the dependent Territories and, in cooperation with the locally elected Governments, to ensure that their constitutional frameworks continue to meet the wishes of the people, and the emphasis that it is ultimately for the peoples of the Territories to decide their future status,

*Welcoming also* the stated position of the Government of the United States of America that it supports fully the principles of decolonization and takes seriously its obligations under the Charter to promote to the utmost the well-being of the inhabitants of the Territories under United States administration,

*Aware* of the special circumstances of the geographical location and economic conditions of each Territory, and bearing in mind the necessity of promoting economic stability and diversifying and strengthening further the economies of the respective Territories as a matter of priority,

*Conscious* of the particular vulnerability of the small Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation,

*Aware* of the usefulness both to the Territories and to the Special Committee of the participation of appointed and elected representatives of the Territories in the work of the Special Committee,

*Convinced* that the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories should continue to guide the

development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

*Convinced also* that any negotiations to determine the status of a Territory must not take place without the active involvement and participation of the people of that Territory,

*Recognizing* that all available options for self-determination of the Territories are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV), 1541 (XV) and other resolutions of the General Assembly,

*Mindful* that United Nations visiting missions provide an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, and considering that the possibility of sending further visiting missions to the Territories at an appropriate time and in consultation with the administering Powers should be kept under review,

*Noting* that the Special Committee held a Pacific regional seminar at Nadi, Fiji, from 16 to 18 June 1998, to hear the views of the representatives of the Territories, as well as Governments and organizations in the region, in order to review the political, economic and social conditions in the Territories,

*Mindful* that in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the peoples of the Territories and to fulfil its mandate effectively, it is important for the Committee to be apprised by the administering Powers and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territories, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories,

*Mindful also* in this connection that the Special Committee regards the holding of regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions and at Headquarters and other venues, with the active participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, as a helpful means to fulfil its mandate, while recognizing the need for reviewing the role of those seminars in the context of a United Nations programme for ascertaining the political status of the Territories,

*Mindful further* that some Territories have not had any United Nations visiting mission for a long period of time, and that no such visiting missions have been sent to some of the Territories,

*Noting with appreciation* the contribution to the development of some Territories by specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, and regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the peoples of the Territories to self-determination, including, if they so wish, independence, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Reaffirms also* that it is ultimately for the peoples of the Territories themselves to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection calls upon the administering Powers, in cooperation with the territorial Governments, to facilitate programmes of political education in the Territories in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with legitimate political status options, including those defined in resolution 1541 (XV);

3. *Requests* the administering Powers to transmit to the Secretary-General information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter and other updated information and reports, including reports on the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories regarding their future political status as expressed in fair and free referendums and other forms of popular consultation, as well as the results of any informed and democratic processes consistent with practice under the Charter that indicate the clear and freely expressed wish of the people to change the existing status of the Territories;

4. *Stresses* the importance for the Special Committee to be apprised of the views and wishes of the peoples of the Territories and to enhance its understanding of their conditions;

5. *Reaffirms* that United Nations visiting missions to the Territories at an appropriate time and in consultation with the administering Powers are an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, and requests the administering Powers and the elected representatives of the peoples of the Territories to assist the Special Committee in this regard;

6. *Reaffirms also* the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territories, and recommends that

priority continue to be given, in consultation with the territorial Governments concerned, to the strengthening and diversification of their respective economies;

7. *Requests* the administering Powers, in consultation with the peoples of the Territories, to take all necessary measures to protect and conserve the environment of the Territories under their administration against any environmental degradation, and requests the specialized agencies concerned to continue to monitor environmental conditions in those Territories;

8. *Calls upon* the administering Powers, in cooperation with the respective territorial Governments, to continue to take all necessary measures to counter problems related to drug trafficking, money-laundering and other offences;

9. *Stresses* that the eradication of colonialism by the year 2000 requires the full and constructive cooperation of all parties concerned;

10. *Takes note* of the particular circumstances that prevail in the Territories concerned, and encourages the political evolution in them towards self-determination;

11. *Urges* Member States to contribute to the efforts of the United Nations to usher in the twenty-first century in a world free of colonialism, and calls upon them to continue to give their full support to the Special Committee in its endeavours towards that noble goal;

12. *Invites* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to initiate or to continue to take all necessary measures to accelerate progress in the social and economic life of the Territories;

13. *Requests the Special Committee* to continue the examination of the question of the small Territories and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session with recommendations on appropriate ways to assist the peoples of the Territories in exercising their right to self-determination.

## B
## Individual Territories

*The General Assembly*,

*Referring* to resolution A above,

### I. American Samoa

*Noting* the report by the administering Power that most American Samoan leaders express satisfaction with the island's present relationship with the United States of America,

*Noting with interest* the statement made and the information on the political and economic situation in American Samoa provided by the Governor of American Samoa to the Pacific regional seminar held at Nadi, Fiji, from 16 to 18 June 1998,

*Noting further* that the Government of the Territory continues to have significant financial, budgetary and internal control problems and that the Territory's deficit and financial condition are compounded by the high demand for government services from the rapidly growing population, a limited economic and tax base and recent natural disasters,

*Noting also* that the Territory, similar to isolated communities with limited funds, continues to experience a lack of adequate medical facilities and other infrastructural requirements,

*Aware* of the efforts of the Government of the Territory to control and reduce expenditures, while continuing its programme of expanding and diversifying the local economy,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Calls upon* the administering Power to continue to assist the territorial Government in the economic and social development of the Territory, including measures to rebuild financial management capabilities and strengthen other governmental functions of the Government of the Territory;

3. *Welcomes* the invitation extended by the Governor of American Samoa to the Special Committee to send a visiting mission to the Territory;

### II. Anguilla

*Conscious* of the commitment of both the Government of Anguilla and the administering Power to a new and closer policy of dialogue and partnership through the Country Policy Plan for 1993-1997,

*Aware* of the efforts of the Government of Anguilla to continue to develop the Territory as a viable offshore centre and well-regulated financial centre for investors, by enacting modern company and trust laws, as well as partnership and insurance legislation, and computerizing the company registry system,

*Noting* the need for continued cooperation between the administering Power and the territorial Government in

tackling the problems of drug trafficking and money-laundering,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Calls upon* the administering Power and all States, organizations and United Nations agencies to continue to assist the Territory in social and economic development;

### III. Bermuda

*Noting* the results of the independence referendum held on 16 August 1995,

*Conscious* of the different viewpoints of the political parties of the Territory on the future status of the Territory,

*Noting* the measures taken by the Government to combat racism and the plan to set up a Commission for Unity and Racial Equality,

*Noting also* the report of the intended closure of the foreign military bases and installations in the Territory,

*Taking into consideration* the statement made in October 1995 by the Finance Minister on the transfer of those lands for development projects,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Calls upon* the administering Power to continue its programmes for the socio-economic development of the Territory;

3. *Requests* the administering Power to elaborate, in consultation with the territorial Government, programmes of development specifically intended to alleviate the economic, social and environmental consequences of the closure of certain military bases and installations in the Territory;

### IV. British Virgin Islands

*Noting* the completion of the constitutional review in the Territory and the coming into force of the amended Constitution, and noting also the results of the general elections held on 20 February 1995,

*Noting also* the results of the constitutional review of 1993-1994, which made it clear that a prerequisite to independence must be a constitutionally expressed wish by the people as a result of a referendum,

*Taking note* of the statement made in 1995 by the Chief Minister of the British Virgin Islands that the Territory was ready for constitutional and political advancement towards full internal self-government and that the administering Power should assist through the gradual transfer of power to elected territorial representatives,

*Noting* that the Territory is emerging as one of the world's leading offshore financial centres,

*Noting also* the need for continued cooperation between the administering Power and the territorial Government in countering drug trafficking and money-laundering,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Requests* the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and all financial institutions to continue to provide assistance to the Territory for socio-economic development and the development of human resources, bearing in mind the vulnerability of the Territory to external factors;

### V. Cayman Islands

*Noting* the constitutional review of 1992-1993, according to which the population of the Cayman Islands expressed the sentiment that the existing relations with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland should be maintained and that the current status of the Territory should not be altered,

*Aware* that the Territory has one of the highest per capita incomes in the region, a stable political climate and virtually no unemployment,

*Noting* the actions taken by the territorial Government to implement its localization programme to promote increased participation by the local population in the decision-making process in the Cayman Islands,

*Noting with concern* the vulnerability of the Territory to drug trafficking, money-laundering and related activities,

*Noting* the measures taken by the authorities to deal with those problems,

*Noting also* that the Territory has emerged as one of the world's leading offshore financial centres,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Requests* the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue to provide the territorial Government with all required expertise to enable it to achieve its socio-economic aims;

3. *Calls upon* the administering Power and the territorial Government to continue to cooperate to counter problems related to money-laundering, smuggling of funds and other related crimes, as well as drug trafficking;

4. *Requests* the administering Power, in consultation with the territorial Government, to continue to facilitate the expansion of the current programme of securing employment for the local population, in particular at the decision-making level;

## VI. Montserrat

*Noting with interest* the statements made and the information on the political and economic situation in Montserrat provided by the elected representatives of the Territory to the Caribbean regional seminar, held at St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, from 21 to 23 May 1997,

*Noting also* the statement made by the Chief Minister of Montserrat on 22 May 1998 on the occasion of the observance of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights,

*Noting* that the last visiting mission took place in 1982,

*Noting also* the functioning of a democratic process in Montserrat, and that general elections were held in the Territory in November 1996,

*Taking note* of the reported statement of the Chief Minister that his preference was for independence within a political union with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and that self-reliance was more of a priority than independence,

*Noting with concern* the dire consequences of a volcanic eruption, which led to the evacuation of a third of the Territory's population to safe areas of the island and to areas outside the Territory, in particular Antigua and Barbuda and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and which continues to have a negative impact upon the economy of the island,

*Noting* the efforts of the administering Power and the Government of the Territory to meet the emergency situation caused by the volcanic eruption, including the implementation of a wide range of contingency measures for both the private and the public sectors in Montserrat,

*Noting also* the coordinated response measures taken by the United Nations Development Programme and the assistance of the United Nations disaster management team,

*Noting with deep concern* that a substantial number of the inhabitants of the Territory continue to live in shelters because of volcanic activity,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Calls upon* the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system as well as regional and other organizations to provide urgent emergency assistance to the Territory in alleviating the consequences of the volcanic eruption;

## VII. Pitcairn

*Taking into account* the unique nature of Pitcairn in terms of population and area,

*Expressing its satisfaction* with the continued economic and social advancement of the Territory, as well as with the improvement of its communications with the outside world and its management plan to address conservation issues,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Also requests* the administering Power to continue its assistance for the improvement of the economic, social, educational and other conditions of the population of the Territory;

## VIII. St. Helena

*Taking into account* the unique character of St. Helena, its population and its natural resources,

*Aware* of the request by the Legislative Council of St. Helena that the administering Power conduct a constitutional review in the Territory,

*Noting* the statement of 1995 by the administering Power that the Governor of the island would be ready to enter into debate on a constitutional review of St. Helena,

*Aware* of the establishment by the Government of the Territory of the Development Agency in 1995 to encourage private sector commercial development on the island,

*Also aware* of the efforts of the administering Power and the territorial authorities to improve the socio-economic conditions of the population of St. Helena, in particular in the sphere of food production,

*Noting with concern* the problem of unemployment on the island and the joint action of the administering Power and the territorial Government to deal with it,

1. *Notes* that the administering Power has taken note of various statements made by members of the Legislative Council of St. Helena about the Constitution and is prepared to discuss them further with the people of St. Helena, and also notes that the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association recently sent a delegation to study the Constitution and its application with the Legislative Council;

2. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

3. *Requests* the administering Power and relevant regional and international organizations to continue to support the efforts of the territorial Government to address the socio-economic development of the Territory;

## IX. Turks and Caicos Islands

*Noting with interest* the statements made and the information on the political and economic situation in the Turks and Caicos Islands provided by the Cabinet Minister as well as a member of the legislature from the opposition of the Territory to the Caribbean regional seminar, held at St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, from 21 to 23 May 1997,

*Noting* the establishment in November 1995 of the Action Committee for Political Independence, formed by prominent political figures from different parties, and its stated goal of educating the population in the disadvantages of the present colonial status and the benefits of independence,

*Noting also* the efforts by the Government of the Territory to strengthen financial management in the public sector, including efforts to increase revenue,

*Noting with concern* the vulnerability of the Territory to drug trafficking and related activities, as well as its problems caused by illegal immigration,

*Noting* the need for continued cooperation between the administering Power and the territorial Government in countering drug trafficking and money-laundering,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Invites* the administering Power to take fully into account the wishes and interests of the Government and the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands in the governance of the Territory;

3. *Calls upon* the administering Power and the relevant regional and international organizations to continue to provide assistance for the improvement of the economic, social, educational and other conditions of the population of the Territory;

4. *Calls upon* the administering Power and the territorial Government to continue to cooperate to counter problems related to money-laundering, smuggling of funds and other related crimes, as well as drug trafficking;

## X. United States Virgin Islands

*Noting with interest* the statements made and the information provided by the representative of the Governor of the Territory to the Pacific regional seminar, held at Nadi, Fiji, from 16 to 18 June 1998,

*Noting* that general elections were held in November 1994,

*Noting also* that 27.5 per cent of the electorate participated in the referendum on the political status of the Territory held on 11 October 1993, that 80.4 per cent of those who voted supported the existing territorial status arrangements with the United States of America and that the referendum left the status issue undecided,

*Noting further* the continuing interest of the territorial Government in seeking associate membership in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and observer status in the Caribbean Community and the Association of Caribbean States,

*Noting* the necessity of further diversifying the Territory's economy,

*Welcoming* the conclusion of the discussion between the Government of the Territory and the administering Power on the question of Water Island,

*Noting* the efforts of the Government of the Territory to promote the Territory as an offshore financial services centre,

*Noting with satisfaction* the interest of the Territory in joining the United Nations International Drug Control Programme as a full participant,

*Recalling* the dispatch in 1977 of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Also requests* the administering Power to continue to assist the territorial Government in achieving its political, economic and social goals;

3. *Further requests* the administering Power to facilitate the participation of the Territory, as appropriate, in various organizations, in particular the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and the Caribbean Community;

4. *Welcomes* the conclusion of the negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government on the question of Water Island.

# Chapter XI
# Tokelau

## A. Consideration by the Special Committee

210. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1997, the Special Committee decided, *inter alia*, to take up the question of Tokelau as a separate item and to consider it at its plenary meetings (see A/AC.109/L.1871).

211. The Special Committee considered the question of Tokelau as a separate item at its 1494th and 1495th meetings, on 8 and 10 July 1998, respectively.

212. During its consideration of the question, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (see A/AC.109/2116).

213. At the 1494th meeting, on 8 July 1998, with the consent of the Special Committee, the *Ulu-o-Tokelau* made a statement (see A/AC.109/SR.1494). Statements were also made by the representatives of Papua New Guinea and Antigua and Barbuda (see A/AC.109/SR.1494).

214. At the same meeting, the representative of New Zealand, the administering Power, made a statement (see A/AC.109/SR.1494).

215. At the 1495th meeting, on 10 July 1998, the representative of Papua New Guinea introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1875/Rev.1.

216. At the same meeting, following a statement made by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1875/Rev.1 without a vote (A/AC.109/2124).

217. At the same meeting, the representative of New Zealand, the administering Power, made a statement (see A/AC.109/SR.1495).

## B. Recommendation of the Special Committee

218. In accordance with decisions taken at its 1484th and 1495th meetings, on 6 February and 10 July 1998, respectively, the Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

**Question of Tokelau**

*The General Assembly*,

*Having considered* the question of Tokelau,

*Having examined* the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the question of Tokelau,[29]

*Recalling* the solemn declaration on the future status of Tokelau, delivered by the *Ulu-o-Tokelau* (the highest authority on Tokelau) on 30 July 1994, that an act of self-determination in Tokelau is now under active consideration, together with the Constitution of a self-governing Tokelau, and that the present preference of Tokelau is for a status of free association with New Zealand,

*Recalling also* its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all

resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to those Territories, including, in particular, Assembly resolution 52/77 of 10 December 1997,

*Recalling further* the emphasis placed in the solemn declaration on the terms of Tokelau's intended free association relationship with New Zealand, including the expectation that the form of help which Tokelau could continue to expect from New Zealand in promoting the well-being of its people, besides its external interests, would be clearly established in the framework of that relationship,

*Noting with appreciation* the continuing exemplary cooperation of New Zealand as the administering Power with regard to the work of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to Tokelau and its readiness to permit access by United Nations visiting missions to the Territory,

*Noting also with appreciation* the collaborative contribution to the development of Tokelau by New Zealand and the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme and the International Telecommunication Union,

*Recalling* the dispatch in 1994 of a United Nations visiting mission to Tokelau,

*Noting* that, as a small island Territory, Tokelau exemplifies the situation of most remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories,

*Noting also* that, as a case study pointing to successful decolonization, Tokelau has wider significance for the United Nations as it seeks to complete its work in decolonization,

1. *Notes* that Tokelau remains firmly committed to the development of self-government and to an act of self-determination that would result in Tokelau assuming a status in accordance with the options on future status for Non-Self-Governing Territories contained in principle VI of the annex to General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960;

2. *Also notes* Tokelau's desire to move at its own pace towards an act of self-determination;

3. *Commends* Tokelau's ongoing work in charting a distinctive constitutional course, reflecting its unique traditions and environment;

4. *Also commends* Tokelau for current initiatives and endeavours, based on wide consultation with its people, to construct a true "house of Tokelau", acknowledging the role of the village as the foundation of Tokelau, as well as the need to continue the process of strengthening the basis of national self-government;

5. *Acknowledges* the attention being given to broader matters of governance, including Tokelau's efforts to establish clear local channels of responsibility and accountability in national and village government;

6. *Notes* the desire of Tokelau, in consultation with the Government of New Zealand, to take over responsibility for the Tokelau Public Service and the willingness of the New Zealand Government to make the necessary legislative changes, reflecting its already well-advanced policy of devolving that part of government which deals with the interests of all of Tokelau;

7. *Acknowledges* Tokelau's need for reassurance, given that local resources cannot adequately cover the material side of self-determination, and the ongoing responsibility of Tokelau's external partners to assist Tokelau in balancing its desire to be self-reliant to the greatest extent possible with its need for external assistance;

8. *Welcomes* the assurances of the Government of New Zealand that it will meet its obligations to the United Nations with respect to Tokelau and abide by the freely expressed wishes of the people of Tokelau with regard to their future status;

9. *Invites* the administering Power and United Nations agencies to continue their assistance to the social and economic development of Tokelau;

10. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to examine this question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

# Chapter XII
# Guam

## A. Consideration by the Special Committee

219. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, the Special Committee decided, *inter alia*, to take up the question of Guam as a separate item and to consider it at its plenary meetings (see A/AC.109/L.1871).

220. The Special Committee considered the question of Guam as a separate item at its 1492nd, 1493rd, 1496th and 1499th meetings, on 6, 7 and 13 July and 11 August 1998.

221. During its consideration of the question, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (see A/AC.109/2113).

222. At the 1493rd meeting, on 7 July 1998, with the consent of the Special Committee, Mr. Ronald Rivera, on behalf of the Guam Commission on Decolonization, made a statement (see A/AC.109/SR.1493).

223. At the same meeting, in accordance with a decision taken at the 1492nd meeting, Mr. Rufo Lujan, on behalf of the Organization of People for Indigenous Rights, made a statement (see A/AC.109/SR.1493).

224. At the 1499th meeting, on 11 August 1998, the Acting Chairman drew the attention of the members to the draft resolution contained in document A/AC.109/L.1883.

225. At the same meeting, the representative of Papua New Guinea introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1883 and, in the course of his statement, informed the Special Committee that Fiji had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

226. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1883 without a vote (A/AC.109/2129).

## B. Recommendation of the Special Committee

227. In accordance with the decision taken at its 1499th meeting, on 11 August 1998, the Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

### Question of Guam

*The General Assembly*,

*Having considered* the question of Guam,

*Having examined* the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the question of Guam,[30]

*Recalling* that, in a referendum held in 1987, the registered and eligible voters of Guam endorsed a draft Guam Commonwealth Act that would establish a new framework for relations between the Territory and the administering Power, providing for a greater measure of internal self-government for Guam and recognition of the right of the Chamorro people of Guam to self-determination for the Territory,

*Recalling* its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular, General Assembly resolution 52/77 of 10 December 1997,

*Recalling also* the requests by the elected representatives and non-governmental organizations of the Territory that Guam not be removed from the list of the Non-Self-Governing Territories with which the Special Committee is concerned, pending the self-determination of the Chamorro people and taking into account their legitimate rights and interests,

*Aware* of the continued negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government on the draft Guam Commonwealth Act and on the future status of the Territory, with particular emphasis on the question of the evolution of the relationship between the United States of America and Guam,

*Cognizant* that the administering Power continues to implement its programme of transferring surplus federal land to the Government of Guam,

*Noting* that the people of the Territory have called for reform in the programme of the administering Power with respect to the thorough, unconditional and expeditious transfer of land property to the people of Guam,

*Conscious* that immigration into Guam has resulted in the indigenous Chamorros becoming a minority in their homeland,

*Aware* of the potential for diversifying and developing the economy of Guam through commercial fishing and agriculture and other viable activities,

*Taking note* of the proposed closing and realigning of four United States Navy installations on Guam and the request for the establishment of a transition period to develop some of the closed facilities as commercial enterprises,

*Recalling* the dispatch in 1979 of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory, and noting the recommendation of the 1996 Pacific regional seminar for sending a visiting mission to Guam,[31]

*Noting with interest* the statements made and the information on the political and economic situation in Guam provided by the representatives of the Territory to the Pacific regional seminar, held at Nadi, Fiji, from 16 to 18 June 1998,

1. *Calls upon* the administering Power to cooperate with Guam's Commission on Decolonization for the Implementation and Exercise of Chamorro Self-Determination in order to facilitate Guam's decolonization and to keep the Secretary-General informed of the progress to that end;

2. *Also calls upon* the administering Power to take into consideration the expressed will of the Chamorro people as endorsed by the people of Guam, encourages the administering Power and the territorial Government of Guam to continue the negotiations on the matter, and requests the administering Power to inform the Secretary-General of progress to that end;

3. *Requests* the administering Power to continue to assist the elected territorial Government in achieving its political, economic and social goals;

4. *Also requests* the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to continue to transfer land to the people of the Territory;

5. *Further requests* the administering Power to continue to recognize and respect the political rights and the cultural and ethnic identity of the Chamorro people of Guam, and to take all necessary measures to respond to the concerns of the territorial Government with regard to the immigration issue;

6. *Requests* the administering Power to cooperate in establishing programmes specifically intended to promote the sustainable development of economic activities and enterprises by the Chamorro people of Guam;

7. *Also requests* the administering Power to continue to support appropriate measures by the territorial Government aimed at promoting growth in commercial fishing and agricultural and other viable activities;

8. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue the examination of the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Guam and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

# Chapter XIII
# Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

## A. Consideration by the Special Committee

228. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, the Special Committee decided, *inter alia*, to take up the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) as a separate item and to consider it at its plenary meetings (see A/AC.109/L.1871).

**The Special Committee considered the question at its 1492nd meeting, on 6 July 1998.**

**229. In its consideration of the question, the Special Committee took into account General Assembly decision 52/409 of 10 November 1997, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions.**

**230. During its consideration of the question, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2105).**

**231. At its 1487th meeting, on 29 June 1998, the Special Committee granted requests for hearing to Mrs. Norma Edwards and Mrs. Sharon Halford of the Legislative Council of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), as well as to Ms. Maria Angelica Vernet, Mr. Enrique Pinedo and Mr. Alejandro Betts, who made statements at the 1492nd meeting, on 6 July 1998 (see A/AC.109/SR.1492).**

**232. At the 1492nd meeting, the Acting Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegations of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay had requested to participate in the Committee's consideration of the item. The Committee decided to accede to the requests.**

**233. At the same meeting, the representative of Chile introduced, on behalf of Bolivia, Cuba, Papua New Guinea and Venezuela, a draft resolution on the question (A/AC.109/L.1874).**

**234. At the same meeting, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina made a statement (see A/AC.109/SR.1492).**

**235. At the same meeting, the representative of Brazil, on behalf of the States of the United Nations that are members of the Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR) (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) and of Bolivia and Chile, made a statement (see A/AC.109/SR.1492).**

**236. At the same meeting, following statements by the representatives of Fiji, Venezuela, Cuba, Bolivia, China and the United Republic of Tanzania (see A/AC.109/SR.1492), the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1874 without a vote (A/AC.109/2122).**

**237. At the same meeting, the representative of Sierra Leone made a statement in explanation of position (see A/AC.109/SR.1492).**

**238. At the same meeting, the representative of Grenada made a statement (see A/AC.109/SR.1492).**

**239. In July 1998, the text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2122) was transmitted to the Permanent Representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and**

Northern Ireland and of Argentina to the United Nations for the attention of their Governments.

240. The delegation of the United Kingdom, the administering Power concerned, did not participate in the Special Committee's consideration of the item.[32]

## B. Decision of the Special Committee

241. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2122) adopted by the Special Committee at its 1492nd meeting, on 6 July 1998, to which reference is made in paragraph 236, is reproduced below:

*The Special Committee,*

*Having considered* the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

*Aware* that the maintenance of colonial situations is incompatible with the United Nations ideal of universal peace,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 2065 (XX) of 16 December 1965, 3160 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973, 31/49 of 1 December 1976, 37/9 of 4 November 1982, 38/12 of 16 November 1983, 39/6 of 1 November 1984, 40/21 of 27 November 1985, 41/40 of 25 November 1986, 42/19 of 17 November 1987 and 43/25 of 17 November 1988, Special Committee resolutions A/AC.109/756 of 1 September 1983, A/AC.109/793 of 21 August 1984, A/AC.109/842 of 9 August 1985, A/AC.109/885 of 14 August 1986, A/AC.109/930 of 14 August 1987, A/AC.109/972 of 11 August 1988, A/AC.109/1008 of 15 August 1989, A/AC.109/1050 of 14 August 1990, A/AC.109/1087 of 14 August 1991, A/AC.109/1132 of 29 July 1992, A/AC.109/1169 of 14 July 1993, A/AC.109/2003 of 12 July 1994, A/AC.109/2033 of 13 July 1995, A/AC.109/2062 of 22 July 1996 and A/AC.109/2096 of 16 June 1997 and Security Council resolutions 502 (1982) of 3 April 1982 and 505 (1982) of 26 May 1982,

*Distressed* that, notwithstanding the time that has elapsed since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX), this prolonged dispute has not yet been settled,

*Aware* of the interest of the international community in the resumption by the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of their negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful, just and lasting solution to the sovereignty dispute relating to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

*Expressing its preoccupation* over the fact that the good level of relations between Argentina and the United Kingdom has not yet led to negotiations on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

*Considering* that this situation should facilitate the resumption of the negotiations in order to find a peaceful solution to the dispute over sovereignty,

*Reaffirming* the principles of the Charter of the United Nations on the non-use of force or the threat of force in international relations and the peaceful settlement of international disputes,

*Calling attention* to the importance of the Secretary-General continuing his efforts to give full effect to the mission entrusted to him by the General Assembly in the resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

*Reaffirming* the need for the parties to take due account of the interests of the population of the islands in accordance with the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

1. *Reiterates* that the way to put an end to the special and particular colonial situation in the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) is the peaceful and negotiated settlement of the dispute over sovereignty between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

2. *Takes note* of the views expressed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina on the occasion of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly;

3. *Regrets* that, in spite of the widespread international support for a negotiation between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom that includes all aspects of the future of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), the implementation of the General Assembly resolutions on this question has not yet started;

4. *Requests* the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom to consolidate the current process of dialogue and cooperation through the resumption of negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute relating to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 2065 (XX), 3160 (XXVIII), 31/49, 37/9, 38/12, 39/6, 40/21, 41/40, 42/19 and 43/25;

5. *Reiterates its firm support* for the mission of good offices of the Secretary-General in order to assist the parties in complying with the request made by the General

Assembly in its resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas);

6. *Decides* to keep under review the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) subject to the directives that the General Assembly has issued and may issue in that regard.

*Notes*

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventeenth Session, Annexes*, addendum to agenda item 25, document A/5238.

[2] See the reports of the Special Committee submitted to the General Assembly at its eighteenth to fifty-second sessions. For the most recent, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/51/23), and ibid., *Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/52/23).

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/52/23).

[4] Ibid., chap. I, sect. J.

[5] Ibid., chap. I, para. 105.

[6] Ibid., *Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/46/23), chap. I, para. 56.

[7] For the explanation of their non-participation, see documents A/47/86 and A/42/651, annex, and *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/41/23), chap. I, paras. 76 and 77.

[8] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/52/23), chap. I, paras. 62 and 63.

[9] E/CN.4/1998/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/50 and E/CN.4/1998/88.

[10] E/CN.4/1998/58.

[11] A/52/528.

[12] The present chapter.

[13] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/52/23) chap. IV.

[14] A/AC.109/L.1882 and Add.1.

[15] A/AC.109/2009.

[16] The present chapter.

[17] The present chapter.

[18] A/53/130 and Corr.1.

[19] A/AC.109/L.1880.

[20] The present chapter.

[21] See E/1998/76.

[22] The present chapter.

[23] A/53/263.

[24] The present chapter.

[25] See A/AC.109/1000, paras. 9-14.

[26] See A/AC.109/2114, annex.

[27] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/41/23), chap. I, paras. 76 and 77, and document A/47/86.

[28] The present chapter.

[29] The present chapter.

[30] The present chapter.

[31] See A/AC.109/2058, para. 33 (20).

[32] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/41/23), chap. I, paras. 76 and 77.

# Annex

## List of documents of the Special Committee, 1998

| *Document No.* | *Title* | *Date* |
|---|---|---|
| **Documents issued in the general series** | | |
| A/AC.109/INF/36 and Add.1 | List of delegations | 25 June 1998<br>9 July 1998 |
| A/AC.109/2101 and Corr.1 | International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: Pacific Regional Seminar to Review the Political, Economic and Social Conditions in the Small Island Non-Self-Governing Territories, to be held at Nadi, Fiji, from 6 to 18 June 1998: guidelines and rules of procedure | 5 May 1998<br>13 May 1998 |
| A/AC.109/2102 | Cayman Islands (working paper) | 1 May 1998 |
| A/AC.109/2103 | Pitcairn (working paper) | 1 May 1998 |
| A/AC.109/2104 | American Samoa (working paper) | 4 May 1998 |
| A/AC.109/2105 | Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (working paper) | 1 June 1998 |
| A/AC.109/2106 | Anguilla (working paper) | 1 June 1998 |
| A/AC.109/2107 | Turks and Caicos Islands (working paper) | 19 May 1998 |
| A/AC.109/2108 | Montserrat (working paper) | 12 May 1998 |
| A/AC.109/2109 | Bermuda (working paper) | 1 June 1998 |
| A/AC.109/2110 | British Virgin Islands (working paper) | 1 June 1998 |
| A/AC.109/2111 and Add.1 | East Timor (working paper) | 1 June 1998<br>30 June 1998 |
| A/AC.109/2112 | Gibraltar (working paper) | 3 June 1998 |
| A/AC.109/2113 | Guam (working paper) | 1 June 1998 |
| A/AC.109/2114 | New Caledonia (working paper) | 3 June 1998 |
| A/AC.109/2115 | St. Helena (working paper) | 1 June 1998 |
| A/AC.109/2116 | Tokelau (working paper) | 2 June 1998 |
| A/AC.109/2117 | United States Virgin Islands (working paper) | 1 June 1998 |
| A/AC.109/2118 | Western Sahara (working paper) | 1 June 1998 |
| A/AC.109/2119 | Dissemination of information on decolonization during the period from May 1997 to June 1998: report of the Department of Public Information | 24 June 1998 |
| A/AC.109/2120 | Dissemination of information on decolonization: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1487th meeting, on 29 June 1998 | 29 June 1998 |
| A/AC.109/2121 | Pacific Regional Seminar to Review the Political, Economic and Social Conditions in the Small Island Non-Self-Governing Territories, held at Nadi, Fiji, from 6 to 18 June 1998 | 18 June 1998 |
| A/AC.109/2122 | Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas): resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1492nd meeting, on 6 July 1998 | 9 July 1998 |

| *Document No.* | *Title* | *Date* |
|---|---|---|
| A/AC.109/2123 | Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1493rd meeting, on 7 July 1998 | 17 September 1998 |
| A/AC.109/2124 | Question of Tokelau: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1495th meeting, on 10 July 1998 | 20 July 1998 |
| A/AC.109/2125 | Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1495th meeting, on 10 July 1998 | 20 July 1998 |
| A/AC.109/2126 | Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration: decision adopted by the Special Committee at its 1495th meeting, on 10 July 1998 | 20 July 1998 |
| A/AC.109/2127 | Question of New Caledonia: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1496th meeting, on 13 July 1998 | 20 July 1998 |
| A/AC.109/2128 | Questions of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1496th meeting, on 13 July 1998 | 22 September 1998 |
| A/AC.109/2129 | Question of Guam: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1499th meeting on 11 August 1998 | 17 August 1998 |
| A/AC.109/2130 | Question of sending visiting missions to Territories: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1499th meeting, on 11 August 1998 | 17 August 1998 |
| A/AC.109/2131 | Special Committee decision of 15 August 1991 concerning Puerto Rico: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1498th meeting, on 11 August 1998 | 17 August 1998 |
| A/AC.109/2132 | Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1500th meeting, on 12 August 1998 | 17 August 1998 |
| A/AC.109/2133 | Letter dated 14 August 1998 from the Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations addressed to the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee | 19 August 1998 |
| **Documents issued in the limited series** | | |
| A/AC.109/L.1870 | Organization of work: relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly: note by the Secretary-General | 30 January 1998 |
| A/AC.109/L.1871 | Organization of work: note by the Chairman | 30 January 1998 |
| A/AC.109/L.1872 | Dissemination of information on decolonization: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman | 25 June 1998 |
| A/AC.109/L.1873 | Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman | 25 June 1998 |
| A/AC.109/L.1874 | Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas): draft resolution submitted by Bolivia, Chile, Cuba, Papua New Guinea and Venezuela | 30 June 1998 |
| A/AC.109/L.1875 and Rev.1 | Question of Tokelau: draft resolution submitted by Papua New Guinea | 7 July 1998<br>8 July 1998 |
| A/AC.109/L.1876 and Rev.1 | Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories: draft resolution submitted by the Acting Chairman | 8 July 1998<br>9 July 1998 |

| *Document No.* | *Title* | *Date* |
|---|---|---|
| A/AC.109/L.1877 | Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration: draft decision submitted by the Acting Chairman | 8 July 1998 |
| A/AC.109/L.1878 and Rev.1 and Rev.1* | Question of New Caledonia: draft resolution submitted by Fiji and Papua New Guinea | 9 July 1998<br>13 July 1998<br>13 July 1998 |
| A/AC.109/L.1879 | Questions of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands: consolidated draft resolution submitted by the Acting Chairman | 13 July 1998 |
| A/AC.109/L.1880 | Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations: report of the Acting Chairman | 5 August 1998 |
| A/AC.109/L.1881 | Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations: draft resolution submitted by the Acting Chairman | 5 August 1998 |
| A/AC.109/L.1882 and Add.1 | Question of sending visiting missions to Territories: report of the Acting Chairman | 7 August 1998<br>12 August 1998 |
| A/AC.109/L.1883 | Question of Guam: draft resolution submitted by Papua New Guinea | 5 August 1998 |
| A/AC.109/L.1884 | Question of sending visiting missions to Territories: draft resolution submitted by the Acting Chairman | 11 August 1998 |
| A/AC.109/L.1885 | Special Committee decision of 15 August 1991 concerning Puerto Rico: draft resolution submitted by Cuba | 7 August 1998 |
| A/AC.109/L.1886 | Report of the Special Committee | 11 August 1998 |

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